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valley

The news that's close to home.

UND grad competes on Norwegian reality show

Minot native calls experience "more mentally challenging than physically challenging."

By Averi Haugesag
Herald Staff Writer

Recent UND graduate Kent Luetzen had a quick, intense lesson on his Norwegian roots, one that will be on television all over Norway.

"I wasn't allowed to tell anybody what I was doing, so I had to tell all my professors I had a really cool job opportunity. I didn't want to tell them I was graduating early to be on a reality TV show," Luetzen said.

The 22-year-old Minot native recently filmed a season of the popular Norwegian show "Alt for Norge," in which Americans of Norwegian descent who have never been to Norway compete in tasks to win prizes and a chance to meet their distant relatives.

"It's very much like a mixture of 'Survivor' and something more family friendly," said Luetzen. "It's not dramatic whatsoever."

It didn't take much convincing to get Luetzen and his sister to apply after they heard about the show from their mother.

"Over Christmas break, I made a video and filled out the application. I sent it in and crossed my fingers," he said. "I didn't think I'd actually get it."

But he did. Months later, Luetzen received a call back and was flown out to Chicago for an interview with the producers.

"They were looking for an easy traveler and

someone with a unique personality," he said. In the end, Luetzen was chosen along with 11 other Americans.

"It was a very well-rounded cast. I mean there was a college kid from North Dakota, a model from California and a 65-year-old man. We were all so different," he said.

Though Luetzen said his family and friends were excited, he said a lot of them didn't get it at first.

"Just saying I'm going to Norway for a reality show sounds so silly," he said, "but what 22-year-old gets to travel to Norway and not pay for a thing?"

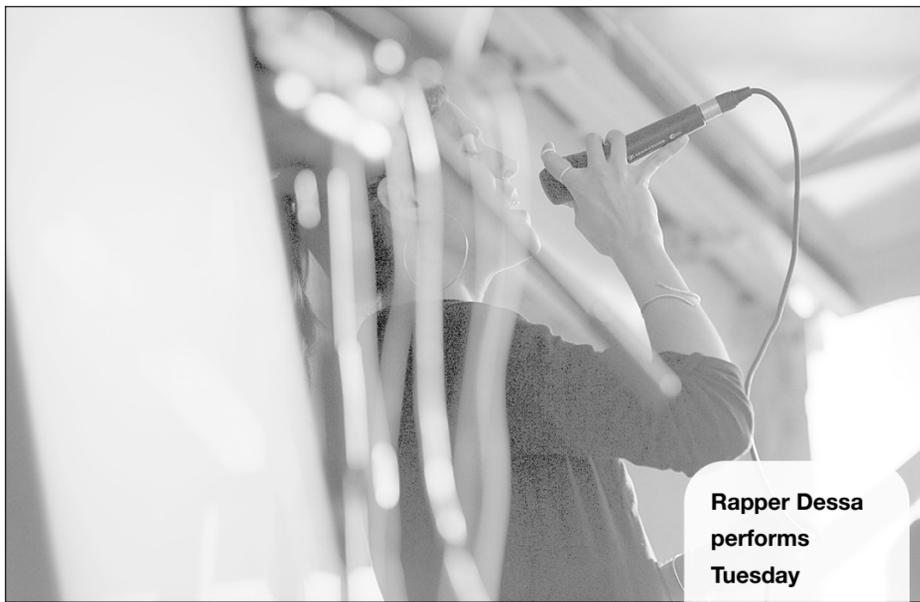
Although his contract with "Alt for Norge" does not allow him to give out any details of the tasks he faced on the show, Luetzen said the trip was an opportunity of a lifetime.

"It was a lot more mentally challenging than physically challenging. All 12 of us learned so much about Norway. There were a lot of times where you kind of just had to rely on luck, because there were a lot of barriers like language and culture. It's 70 percent luck and 30 percent skill. You could spend your whole time memorizing things, but at the same time you're like, I just kind of want to enjoy my time here, too," he said.

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Minot native Kent Luetzen was one of the contestants on the "Alt for Norge" reality show set in Norway.



Rapper Dessa performs Tuesday

evening as part of the North Dakota Museum of Art's Concerts in the Garden series. Originally from Minneapolis, Dessa is part of the seven-member rap collective Doomtree. She was a return performer for the concert series after an indoor performance in summer 2012. This was the second show in the six-week series.

Dessa returns to concert series

Photos | Kile Brewer

A large crowd came out to see rapper Dessa perform at the North Dakota Museum of Art as part of the Concerts in the Garden series. Blankets, lawn chairs and even rocks were occupied by concert-goers.

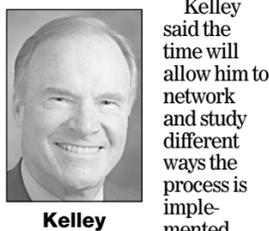


UND president goes on leave to study tenure

Robert Kelley will look at policies involved with tenure for 30 days and will return August 7.

By Anna Burleson
Herald Staff Writer

UND President Robert Kelley has taken a 30-day leave to study faculty tenure.



Kelley said the time will allow him to network and study different ways the process is implemented across the

nation. He said he wants to use that information to create a more streamlined method of evaluating and awarding tenure at UND, not to create more or fewer tenure positions.

"Tenure has to be somewhat uniformly and fairly administered so that some people aren't being inadequately rewarded for work that is so different from someone else's work," Kelley said. "Someone could be denied tenure because somehow they didn't meet a poorly expressed or unexpressed standard."

As of fall 2013, about 48 percent of the professors, associate professors and assistant professors at UND were tenured and about 17 percent were on tenure track, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

Larry Skogen, interim chancellor of the North Dakota University System, granted Kelley's request.

UND Provost Tom DiLorenzo will oversee the university in Kelley's absence. The president will be back Aug. 7.

One policy

In his official request for developmental leave, Kelley cited issues surrounding different standards for what it means to achieve tenure, financial implications and a differing level of understanding of what tenure means for an individual.

NDUS policy leaves the particulars of granting and evaluating tenure up to each institution, and Kelley said he has been thinking about trying to find a way to create an overarching, standardized policy instead of the current method.

"My concern is that we're not terribly consistent in the way we administer tenure on this campus," he said. "Every department, appropriately, has different standards, but I think we may have gotten to the point where we're somewhat disparate in our institutional standards. I wanted to see what other universities do."

Kelley said tenure is meant to ensure instructors have the ability to voice sometimes unpopular academic opinions for the betterment of the educational environment without the fear of getting fired.

He himself had tenure for 22 years at the University of New Mexico when he worked there.

While a lot of research on the topic of tenure already exists online, Kelley will use his leave to review that literature and policies at peer and other institutions. He also plans to attend conferences and set up meetings with university presidents.

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TOWING/

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Budgeting for these costs in both cities can be tricky as there is no typical year for towing numbers. Add factors such as weather and car accidents, and the budget forecast gets even cloudier.

"If I could predict this I'd be going to Vegas," Love joked.

Winter woes

While there is no typical year for towing, there seems to be a season for it.

Often, weather conditions can play a large role in how many vehicles the cities need removed from streets.

"I know it's definitely worse in the winter," said East Grand Forks Police Chief Mike Hedlund.

Winter weather can create situations requiring a tow, such as traffic accidents.

A number of tows in both cities also occur during snow removals. During snow emergency declarations in East Grand Forks, there is no on-street parking until the street is cleared.

Cars hindering snow removal are usually moved around the corner or to a nearby location to allow crews to finish their work, Hedlund said. The owner receives a citation for the tow.

"Very rarely are we going to impound a vehicle unless it's involved in a criminal act," Hedlund said.

During the winter months, the Grand Forks Police Department also will tow cars out of the way of snow removal crews. Like East Grand Forks, the owners are charged a towing and street maintenance fee.

Otherwise, cars are taken to the city's impound lot. East Grand Forks requires companies to have a secure impound lot where vehicles can be stored.

Cost of city tow

Grand Forks: \$65.
-Potential additional fees: \$20-100.
-Flatbed tow: \$80.
East Grand Forks: \$50.
-Potential additional fees: \$20.
-Flatbed tow: \$80.

Towing process

A journey to impound lots can begin a number of ways.

In addition to vehicles hindering street maintenance and snow removal, cars parked on streets longer than 24 hours qualify for a tow.

When it comes to towing hotspots, Grand Forks Police

Lt. Greg LaHaise can't put his finger on any specific areas in the city.

"The best I can tell you is it's citywide," said LaHaise, who works in the department's facilities and equipment bureau. "We tow cars from all over."

Across the river, Hedlund said the department does see some trouble areas.

"Apartments can be a problem just because many of the apartment complexes have less parking stalls than tenants," he said. The situation results in a higher concentration of street parking in areas around complexes.

Hedlund said the department leans toward giving tickets rather than towing immediately. If a vehicle remains on an East Grand Forks

city street for more than 24 hours, a tow tag can be placed on the car stating the owner has an additional 24 hours to move the vehicle.

The procedure is similar in Grand Forks.

The police departments are not involved in towing from private lots, but owners of those properties do call to inform the police that a car has been towed from the area.

"They'll typically let us know, that way if someone calls in a stolen vehicle we can say, 'No, it wasn't,'" LaHaise said. "If we tow it, we have record of it right away so we can tell them right away where it's at."

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newsflash

Sign construction

Simonson Travel Center, a truck stop along Interstate 29 in Grand Forks, is seeking permission to build a bigger pylon sign to match that of its rivals.

Currently, zoning laws require pylon signs in that area to be no higher than 50 feet.

But Flying J Travel Plaza was earlier allowed to build a 90-foot tall sign, and Stamart Travel Center was allowed to build a 100-foot tall sign, according to city staff.

Simonson's proposed sign will be 82 feet tall with a sign stating the name of the business and electronic signs stating the price of gas.

The Grand Forks Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday recommended the City Council approve Simonson's request.

Commissioners said that if other truck stops can be exempted so can Simonson.

The request will go to City Council on July 21 for final approval.

Arch Simonson, owner of Simonson Travel Center, did not return a call for comment.

— Charly Haley

Mosquito spraying

Mosquito-control planes will be in the air tonight over Stephen, Minn., and Grafton, Hoople, Minto and Thompson, all in North Dakota, according to Airborne Custom Spraying. Spraying will be done between 7 and 11 p.m. If the weather doesn't cooperate, it will be rescheduled for the same time Thursday night.

Airborne said the chemicals used will not harm people or pets, but both should stay indoors during spraying as a precaution.

— Herald staff report



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