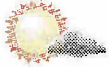


FRIDAY
SEPT. 12,
2008



Mostly sunny
and pleasant

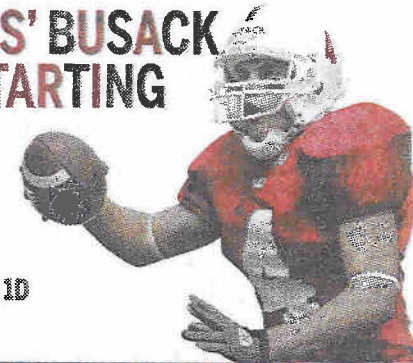
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76 | **52**

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ANDERSON ALTERS VISION

Center changes name, widens mission

By **Britt Johnsen**
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An organization that once set out to help Central Minnesota entrepreneurs realize their dreams now wants to help other business leaders reach their goals, too.

What was known as the Anderson Entrepreneurial Center is now called the Anderson Center. Plans to change its name and broaden its mission were announced Thursday.

The center will offer man-

agement and business development services across Minnesota, in cities such as Grand Rapids, Brainerd, Hutchinson and Rochester, as well as Central Minnesota.

The Anderson Center was founded in 1997 after Harold E. Anderson, founder of Anderson Trucking Service Inc.,

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Speaker offers ideas.

donated \$1 million to help entrepreneurs gain the skills and knowledge they need to become successful. Anderson died in 2001 at age 85.

Half that donation has

been set aside for scholarships and development of the center's future, said Rick Bauerly, board chairman of the Anderson Center. More specifically, the center plans to "invest up to \$200,000 in the next three years to expand its team of (discussion

See **CENTER, 6A** ▶

FROM PAGE 1A

Center

leaders), further refine our existing (programs) and develop new management development forums, and scale up our infrastructure and staff to reach across our Greater Minnesota market," according to a statement from the center.

The same forums that were offered to local leaders will now be offered to businesses throughout the state. The Anderson Center does not plan to open facilities in other cities, but will partner with groups such as chambers of commerce and economic development groups, Bauerly said.

Forums are similar to college classes in which business professionals study and

discuss case studies, although students do not earn a degree. They are led by experienced discussion leaders who facilitate debate and conversation.

It offers forums on topics such as succession planning and management skills. Bauerly said they hope to expand their forum topics and discussion leaders as the center grows across the state.

At its quarterly luncheon Thursday, the center also announced it will no longer give an "entrepreneur of the year" award. It will instead give out a "visionary award," which better reflects the center's focus. The inaugural winner was Lee Hanson, chairman of the center's executive committee and a partner at Gray Plant Mooty law firm in St. Cloud.

Learn more about the Anderson Center and its forums at www.acmbd.org.