

Hi, hello and welcome to our subscriber of the week:

Clare Carlson, Bismarck, ND

Your Weather



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Ukrainians face slow walk out the door as status expires

Unable to legally work, some fear a return to war zone

By Micheal Standaert, ND News Cooperative

In mid-June Yaroslav Riazanov’s upended life will change once again.

The 27-year-old who drove trucks and worked construction around Fargo for the past two years as a Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) parolee will no longer be able to work.

Riazanov is fine. He’s in the prime of his life. He has no forthcoming surgery or anything that could make him physically incapable of working.

Only his paperwork will change.

Instead of being a two-year parolee, he’ll move to the limbo of temporary protected status.

While this allows him to stay in the U.S. for potentially another six months, it revokes his ability to work here legally.

Without work, his savings will dwindle, possibly forcing him to return to Ukraine.

Riazanov is one of the 600 to 800 Ukrainians who have settled in North Dakota as part of the U4U program now facing an uncertain future.

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'Roarin' game' Drayton Curling Club renovations

By Christine Jensen

Curling has a long history and has been a favorite winter pastime for many during the long winter months. For the Drayton Curling Club, renovations have been made to extend the historic pastime into the summer months as well.

According to the World Curling website, “Curling has been described as the ‘Roarin’ Game,’ with the ‘roar’ coming from the noise of a granite stone as it travels over the ice. The exact origins of the game, however, are unclear, but curling is widely believed to be one of the world’s oldest team sports. Paintings by the 16th century Flemish artist, Pieter Bruegel portrayed an activity similar to curling being played on frozen ponds. The first written evidence appeared in Latin, when in 1540, John McQuhin, a notary in Paisley, Scotland, recorded in his protocol book a challenge between John Sclater, a monk in Paisley Abbey and Gavin Hamilton, a representative of the Abbot...What is clear, however, is that what may have started as an enjoyable pastime of throwing stones over ice during a harsh Northern European winter, has evolved into a popular modern sport with its own world championships, which attract fans and large television audiences.”

Spectators will often hear curlers cheering each other on with phrases like, “hurry hard,” which means to sweep as hard as they can and “hard line,” which means to sweep to try hold the rock on the specific line. They will also hear phrases like “hack weight and bumper weight,” which both refer to different weight throws for whatever the situation requires.

According to the Drayton Curling Club website, “Drayton is the home to North Dakota’s oldest curling organization, founded in 1901 as Dacotah Curling Club. Curling quickly became a popular pastime here during winter months when travel became more difficult, farm activity slowed, and people sought opportunities to socialize and exercise. The sport of curling is very much woven into the history of the Drayton area.”

Tom Halcrow, who has been a member of the Drayton Curling Club for approximately 12 years and is currently on the Curling Club Board said during the COVID pandemic, the curling club building underwent some major renovations including installing a new floor, a new cooling system, and a dehumidification system. He said it was the perfect time for the club, which was built during the mid 1950s, to undergo improvements.

“Since it was built so many years ago it was in need of improvements. Many of the improvements have been done by members of the curling club,” Halcrow said. “There are many skilled people in our membership that have helped with various projects. Every single one of our members have had something to do with the renovations, we have really had good support.”

He said they are currently undergoing a few more renovations including foaming the interior of the rink to tighten the building up and putting tin back up on the walls. He said they are also working on getting the electricity and furnace unit hooked back up.

“Our funds come from sponsorship, membership dues, and from the Drayton Curling Club Gaming,” Halcrow said. “We honor many requests for donations in our community and the surrounding areas.”

Since 1986, Halcrow said the Curling Club has donated more than 1.4 million dollars to the Drayton community and surrounding areas. Donations went to various things including the Drayton pool, Drayton Public School, Schumacher Park, libraries, many benefits throughout the area, and many other various donations.

“If we get a request and we have the funding to donate, we donate,” Halcrow said. “We rarely turn away a request. There have been times when we were unable to donate the full amount of a request because we didn’t have ample funds but we try to honor all requests we get.”

Halcrow said Drayton Curling Club has approximately 40 members and six people on the Curling Club Board. He said the board was finding they had quite a few people wanting to try curling in the summer.

“There isn’t too many places where a person can curl in the summer,” Halcrow said. “But now we are able to accommodate those people. We appreciate the support from all the area curling clubs such as Stephen, Grafton, Hallock, and Grand Forks.”

During the club’s Summer Bonspiel which is scheduled for July 17-20 during Drayton’s Riverfest Celebration, they have people participating from all over including those who travel from places like Sioux Falls, SD, and Canada.

“We are able to draw a much larger audience when we have summer ice which we are now capable of,” Halcrow said.

He said the name of the Bonspiel is Catfish Capital Summer Spiel and said it is very illusive to get your team’s name on the trophy. There has been one specific team which has had the honor for the past three years in a row.

“Just from the one Bonspiel we are guaranteed approximately 120 people who will be participating and spending money in town,” Halcrow said. “There is a lot of new people, diversification in town from the Drayton Bonspiel.”

He said they previously organized a winter Bonspiel around Christmas but often had a difficult time filling up the teams as people

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Left to right: Brooklynn Petersen, Mikayla McCoy, Jonah Rarick, Peyton Larson, Maia Hermanson, Daniel de Sousa, Melissa de Sousa, Kenzie Sherrill & Ag instructor Adam Riddle. Submitted photo

DPS Students represent well at the North Dakota FFA convention

Jonah Rarick

Silver in Nursery Landscape & Food Science

Brooklynn Petersen

Bronze in Nursery Landscape

Hailey Uggerud

Bronze in Dairy Cattle Judging & Small Animals

Nursery Landscape Team

Bronze as a Team

A record six awards were achieved by Drayton students.

Daniel de Souza

Bronze in Nursery Landscape & Food Science

Melissa de Souza

Bronze in Nursery Landscape

These students have worked hard and represented the Drayton Chapter with pride and excellence.



The nursery landscape team, left to right: Daniel de Sousa, Jonah Rarick, Melissa de Souza & Brooklyn Petersen. Submitted photo



Steve’s sister in law Jessie Aasand, niece Shea Aasand, daughter Reegan Aasand, brother Mike Aasand, son Lincoln Aasand, niece Kiara Aasand, nephew Thomas Aasand, and Marlene and Dale Aasand parents of Steve. Submitted photo

3rd annual TMG & Steve Aasand Memorial Golf Tournament

Held Saturday, June 7, there were over 14 teams that participated in this year’s tournament which raises money for supporting children, annual scholarships and youth sports.



Teams waited patiently for the rules and the shotgun start set for noon. Submitted photo