

Sauk Centre Herald

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Volleyball, football moved in sports decision

Other MSHSL fall activities start Aug. 17

BY EVAN MICHEALSON
STAFF WRITER

Ever since the Minnesota high school spring sports season was canceled by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) April 23, there has been a looming decision facing the league in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic: What would the fall sports season look like?

The league's Board of Directors provided some insight into that question, approving an Aug. 17 start date for girls

Sports page 3

The power of purple



Volunteers for Relay for Life Western Stearns County begin lighting the 243 luminarias lining Park Road Aug. 1 in Sauk Centre. PHOTOS BY KAYLA ALBERS

Western Stearns County hosts Relay for Life event

BY KAYLA ALBERS
STAFF WRITER

Relay for Life Western Stearns County hosted a walk and drive-through event on July 30. The event took place on Park Road, where the road was blocked off and lined with 325 luminary bags to honor those who have been affected by cancer.

There were 14 participating teams this year that helped to raise over \$15,000 for the American Cancer Society; another \$1,000 was raised in the two and a half hours the event took place on July 30.

Relay for Life volunteers Missy Hornick, Marcy Johnson, Debby Rosenberg, Joelle Anderson and Audrey Roring helped put together the event with purple decorations, music and kettle corn donated by Otte's Concessions.

The event began at 8 p.m. with the walk and drive through to observe the luminary bags and remember those who

Relay page 4

Plan for safe learning announced

Sauk Centre qualifies for in-person elementary, hybrid secondary education

BY BEN SONNEK | STAFF WRITER

With the July 30 unveiling of Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan, Sauk Centre Public Schools and Holy Family School in Sauk Centre are putting the pieces together for a healthy and educational 2020-21 school year based on the planning they have done in advance.

"We're excited about the start of another school year," said Lynn Peterson, principal of Holy Family School. "We're praying the number of cases stays low and hoping we all continue to use good judgment and work together so all our schools can safely open for our students to be with us in-person."

The Safe Learning Plan will allow school districts to make opening and operating decisions with the state's guidance and based on regional COVID-19 cases. The program will also guarantee distance learning for families who are uncomfortable with sending their children to in-person learning.

"It's going to be a first day of school unlike any we've ever seen," said Gov. Tim Walz said. "This decision is many, many months in the making. Not all schools look the same and not all parts of our state look the same, and we need to take in those considerations."

Minnesota school districts have been planning for in-person, distance and hybrid learning options, and any or all of those plans could come into effect.

"It was very helpful to have so many people from all over the school,

School page 3



Gerry Kulzer stands behind sculptures of his five children – (from left) Andrew, Theo, Anissa, Therese and Quinn – at his home July 20 in Litchfield. Kulzer, who grew up in Sauk Centre, will sculpt the newly crowned Princess Kay of the Milky Way and nine finalists' likenesses in butter beginning Aug. 13. PHOTO BY JENNIFER COYNE

Kulzer to sculpt Princess Kay, finalists' butterheads

BY JENNIFER COYNE | STAFF WRITER

LITCHFIELD – From growing up on a farm in Stearns County to pursuing a career in fine arts, Gerry Kulzer's most recent opportunity is bringing together both of his worlds.

"This is going to be a great blend of doing what I love and bringing me back to my childhood," said Kulzer, who grew up on a grain farm south of Sauk Centre.

Kulzer will carve the 67th Princess Kay of the Milky Way's likeness in butter Thursday, Aug. 13, with the remaining nine finalists' butterheads being sculpted in the days that

follow at the Minnesota State Fair grounds in St. Paul. The final day of carving will be Saturday, Aug. 22.

The sculptor, of Litchfield, will carve the butterheads in place of long-time butter sculptor Linda Christensen, who resides in California. Due to the travel restrictions and the risks of COVID-19, Christensen will join Kulzer virtually to assist in carving Princess Kay's likeness and then plans to return to Minnesota next year for her 50th year in the butter booth at the fair.

"The original plan was for Linda to carve a majority of the butterheads, and I would do about three of them," Kulzer said. "I was really looking forward to carving together

with her, but plans changed, and we'll be working together virtually this year."

Kulzer's coveted opportunity came about after a simple inquiry.

A few years ago, he and his family attended the Minnesota State Fair and watched Christensen sculpt a Princess Kay finalist out of 90 pounds of butter.

"When I saw what she was doing, and in front of all those people, I thought, how cool would that be to be able to do something like that," Kulzer said.

He contacted Midwest Dairy and asked to be considered for the position should it ever become available.

Kulzer page 2



PHOTO BY BEN SONNEK

Pat Westby and Nikki Linscheid review details of Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan Aug. 3 at Sauk Centre Public Schools in Sauk Centre. Under the Safe Learning Plan, Sauk Centre's schools qualify for in-person education for elementary students and a hybrid of in-person learning and distance learning for secondary students because of the number of COVID-19 cases in the county as of July 30.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- North Fork Crow River Watershed Budget Hearing Notice - pg. 2B
- City of Sauk Centre Sample Ballot - pg. 2B
- City of Sauk Centre 2019 Annual Disclosure Statement - pg. 2B
- West Union Township Public Notice - pg. 2B
- Sauk Centre Board of Adjustment Public Hearing - pg. 3B
- Sauk Centre Municipal Airport Public Hearing - pg. 3B
- Sauk River Watershed District Budget Public Hearing - pg. 2B
- Assumed Name - Carrie's Cutting Edge - pg. 3B
- City of Sauk Centre Variance Request Public Notice - pg. 2B

OBITUARIES

- Rita M. Hittle
- Sidney A. Lyon
- Judy L. Meagher

TEMPERATURES

Date	High	Low	Prec.
July 27	80	57	.00
July 28	80	59	.03
July 29	79	56	.00
July 30	79	57	.00
July 31	81	55	.00
Aug. 1	79	62	.02
Aug. 2	73	53	.00



The newspaper of today is the history of tomorrow.



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Kids helping kids

Neighborhood families host bake sale to help end child trafficking

BY KAYLA ALBERS
STAFF WRITER

Driving through the neighborhood of Lake Shore Drive, white pop-up tents and homemade signs decorated the side of the street. Children bustled as they set up lemonade, baked goods and popsicles to sell in support of the Operation Underground Railroad organization for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30.

“What this little street in the middle of America can do is an opportunity to work and learn with our neighbors,” Sarah Thompson said. “To try and make a difference is probably the biggest thing we can do.”

Thompson resides in the neighborhood and helped her

children and others coordinate the bake sale.

The crew for the cause included six families – Thompson and her children, Nora and Hazel; Sidney Moritz; Livia and Quincy Jennissen; Andrew and Elizabeth Friedrichs; Linus Dunn; and Gemma, Tyson, Brooke and Blake Kleinschmidt.

Each family provided supplies for the sale like lemonade, watermelon-shaped Rice Krispy bars, chocolate chip cookies, brownies and popsicles.

The neighborhood kids wanted to have a stand outside to sell goods for some time, and Thompson had the idea that all of the proceeds could go towards supporting Operation Underground Railroad.



PHOTOS BY KAYLA ALBERS

Hazel Thompson, 9, pours lemonade for the first customer of the day July 30 in Sauk Centre. The neighborhood kids ran their bake sale for two hours and raised more than \$700 for Operation Underground Railroad.

“It gave us an opportunity to talk about how we are fortunate to live in a great

neighborhood where maybe we aren't affected by human trafficking,” Thompson said. “It is still something that is out there, and it is a way to give back.”

The organization was founded in 2013 and aims to bring an end to child trafficking.

In the two hours of the sale, the group of 9- to 12-year-olds sold out of all of their goods, and made more than \$700 which included a generous donation from Minnesota National Bank.

“Everybody was excited to do this and the kids are already thinking about where they want to donate their proceeds for their next sale,” Thompson said.



PHOTO BY KAYLA ALBERS

The neighborhood kids on Lakeshore Drive – (from left) Gemma, Tyson, Brooke and Blake Kleinschmidt, Andrew Friedrichs, Linus Dunn, Quincy and Livia Jennissen, Sidney Moritz, Elizabeth Friedrichs and Hazel and Nora Thompson – gather July 30 in Sauk Centre to sell baked goods in support of stopping human trafficking.

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Kulzer from front

A few years later, the organization reached out to Kulzer as they were entertaining a transition plan for a new sculptor as Christensen approaches retirement.

Two years ago, Kulzer auditioned with a 90-pound block of butter.

“I was honored,” he said. “It was fantastic. The day before the fair began, I was given a picture of a subject to carve. They liked what they saw.”

Then last year, Kulzer worked as Christensen's apprentice. Prior to the opening of the state fair, Kulzer practiced carving a butterhead sculpture. As Christensen sculpted one side of the likeness, Kulzer mimicked on the other.

“It was awesome to work together and learn from the master,” Kulzer said. “We each worked differently but it worked. The end result was a coherent sculpture.”

As Kulzer prepares for his debut in the butter booth, he is both eager and anxious. He grew up with an ap-



PHOTO BY JENNIFER COYNE

Gerry Kulzer adds detail to a sculpture of Pope John Paul II at his home July 23 in Litchfield.

preciation and gift for creating artwork. Kulzer's interest in art began in elementary school with illustrations and then developed into ceramics while attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Then, in 1996, he took an internship with a Wisconsin pottery company, and that propelled his career into the sculpting industry.

“I learned so much in that internship, and then my first job brought me to Litchfield where I saw the possibilities in sculpture,” Kulzer said.

Kulzer uses clay for his creations, having made an array of sculptures including many portraits of his family – wife, Karen; and five children, Andrew, Theo, Anissa, Therese and Quinn.

“I've had good experi-

ence and training for working on a time limit and the precision necessary for the butter sculptures, but it's going to be an entirely different environment,” Kulzer said. “I'll literally be in a cooler, and butter is grainy like ice cream, where it can be both smooth and rough depending on how you shape it. Clay is always smooth.”

Kulzer will also have to work as a subtractive artist, creating the likeness by removing butter rather than adding pieces easily back to the block like he typically does when working with clay.

“I've been practicing with a sculpture of my daughter, carving away as if it's butter,” Kulzer said. “I've also been doing speed sculpting exercises to make sure I

don't run out of time.”

The artist will have about eight hours to complete each butterhead.

“I'll be putting out one portrait a day,” Kulzer said. “My work usually takes me about two weeks. I like to work on it for a bit, then come back and see the problems to fix.”

With Kulzer's new endeavor quickly approaching, he is most looking forward to meeting his subjects.

“There's really nothing better than learning the stories of the people you're sculpting,” Kulzer said. “I'll be spending up to eight hours with these young women talking about their dairy background. I'm honored to get to represent Midwest Dairy farmers in this way.”

Kulzer's uncle milked cows, and he recalls watching and helping his cousins work on the farm.

“I've always been in awe of how dedicated dairy farmers are to their job,” he said.

As Kulzer prepares to step into the butter booth, he wants to take this opportunity to be an ambassador for the dairy industry on a platform that reaches so many.

“There's a lot of pressure because I have very big shoes to fill with having Linda in the (butter) booth for so many years,” Kulzer said. “My only hope is that in the end, people will say I've done a good job.”

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