

THE TRIBUNE

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ROSEAU COUNTY FAIR

FAIR

photos by RYAN BERGERON

TOP PHOTO—Cousins Quinn Vacura and Kayle Vacura sit together on the ride "Star Trooper" at the Roseau County Fair on July 25. The Roseau County Fair ran July 21-26 in Roseau.

BOTTOM PHOTO—Eddie Lund is all smiles he plays bumper cars at the Roseau County Fair on July 25. The annual fair ran July 21-26 on the Roseau County Fairgrounds in Roseau.



Driving through the obstacles

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The Gator Girls' Basketball team was facing the Stephen-Argyle Storm at home on January 7. During the game, Gator senior player Kianna Novacek would stop really hard on a play and feel something off, wondering if she tore something. Soon after, just 26 seconds out of a Gator timeout, Kianna would shoot and make a jumper to cut into the Gator deficit midway through the first half, but when she came down to the floor after the shot her athletic season would take a turn. She fell to the floor in pain, left the game and later discovered that her initial feelings would be confirmed.

"I felt a pop and then I don't remember anything after until everybody was watching me," Kianna said. "And they kind of thought, 'No, I don't think it's the ACL. I think you're going to be fine.' And then when I went to get my MRI, I (discovered that I) tore my ACL completely and I have an impact fracture in my tibia."

Kianna discussed her journey from this injury to the end of her Gator sports career. This career would end with her putting on the eighteenth hole at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker on June 12 in her fourth and final appearance at the Minnesota State High School League Class A State Girls' Golf Tournament.

Her mom Karen, younger sister and basketball and golf teammate Anissah, and Gator Head Golf Coach Brady Johnson shared their thoughts too. Kianna also discussed her entire Gator golf career and her future plans on and off the greens.

Kianna found a spot on the Gator Girls' Golf Varsity team her freshman season and experienced immediate success. She qualified for the state tournament as an individual in her freshman and sophomore seasons.

photos by VAL TRUSCINSKI
Gator senior Kianna Novacek looks on after hitting a shot at the Section 8A Girls' Golf Tournament at the Bemidji Town and Country Club last May. There, she shot a two-day score of 182—the second lowest individual score at the tournament—to lead the Gators to a second consecutive section title and secure her fourth trip to state. Going to state as a team meant more to her than just going as an individual.

THE OBSTACLES
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From prepping wool to the spinning wheel to the end results



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The following is a continuation related to local resident Rachel Green and the techniques of prepping the fleeces of sheep wool prior to the spinning and the end result.

The first step is to 'skirt' the raw fleece that's been taken right off the sheep. The wool is laid out on a large slotted circular skirting table that rotates full circle.

"It's then closely examined for any wool that is too short, too dirty, or contains vegetable matter such as hay and/or straw," Rachel said. "Wool around the face and legs of the sheep is also unacceptable, and may contain coarse hair like-fiber (kemp) that can't be spun. Another important thing is the removal of the 'second cuts' caused when the shearing blade goes over the same area more than once. When one is spinning wool, these little pieces of wool (neps) is not what you want in your yarn.

"We've made changes in the type of hay feeders we use, with the main goal being to keep the hay out of the wool. It has made a big difference. Using a lot of straw for bedding also tends to keep the flock clean. When the sheep are outdoors it is important to keep cockle burrs and thistle away from the fence lines so it doesn't get in the wool.

"Roger works hard to make changes that keep the sheep and their fleece clean for me, even when it means extra work for him... and it always does! I really appreciate it though."

Once the skirting of the fleece is completed and if one wants a large quantity of spinning fiber or yarn, it can be taken to a wool processing mill. There is one at Randall, Minn., and also one in Wisconsin. When the wool is taken to a mill, they basically want to know what's been brought and what products one wants returned. The fleece is weighed; processing

is charged by the pound. If any of the fleece needs to be skirted there, it costs up to \$25 an hour. Mills will also process fiber into yarn, felted sheets and batts.

"The wool can also be processed at home," Green commented. "I do some of it that way. Doing a whole four to five pound fleece is not a small project by the time you're done."

And she wasn't foolin'!
"Following the skirting procedure, the next step is to wash the fleece. Small sections of fiber, called "locks", are then 'sandwiched' between two 8"x15" mesh baskets, submerged in hot water, and left to soak for 20-30 minutes. This initial rinse loosens the heavy dirt. The fleece is then drained and a squirt of wool wash called "Power Scour" is added to clean hot water without creating any suds. Its purpose is to start dissolving the lanolin (in the fleece). The baskets of fleece are resubmerged where it remains for another 20-30 minutes.

She continued, "The wool is submerged but never agitated because this causes 'felting' (matting together). The water is then changed two times - for washing, followed by two more hot-water rinses."

The importance of the 20-30 minute time frame in any of the cycles is so the water doesn't get too cool. This keeps the lanolin from depositing back into the wool. A dab of wool conditioner is added to the final rinse to keep the static down.

The clean, washed fiber is next placed into a mesh laundry bag, and spun in a washing machine to get out as much water as possible, and then spread out on a screened surface to dry. Once dry, the fiber in the small sections of wool need to be opened up.



SPINNING WHEEL
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photos by MAVIS GONSHOROWSKI
Fiber cloud is run through this swing picker as many times as is needed until the fibers and tips of the locks are separated.

UPPER RIGHT—Rachel Green is shown at her spinning wheel joining two single strands of wool together which will then become two-ply yarn.

LOWER RIGHT—Fiber cloud is fed onto the smaller of two drums which then transfers to the upper drum.