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A festive Fourth

Curtain draws next week on 'Nana's Naughty Knickers'

By Alyssa Sobotka
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ROUND LAKE — Nana has a secret.

But not for much longer. A crowd will learn what Nana's been hiding during the Grassroots Community Theatre's upcoming July 11-13 performances of "Nana's Naughty Knickers," slated July 11-13, at The Greater Round Lake Community Association.

The farce by Katherine DiSavino that follows Bridget's experiences at her nana's New York apartment is sure to get chuckles from men and women alike.

"I laughed out loud reading the script," said Denise Deitchman 'Bridget' of Lakefield. "It's intelligently funny. There's some great lines."

In her first role as director, Jeri Sirovy of Jackson is leading the nine-member cast of both seasoned and rookie community actors and actresses.

There's been a lot of moving pieces to prepare for the play, but Sirovy was up for the challenge.

"It just sounded like a fun challenge, new experiences and something I'd like to try," she said of her decision to direct following the retirement of former director Mary Jane Mardesen.

In her debut performance, Nancy Jo Hambleton of Worthington plays the role of Nana.

"I was shocked to get a lead role," she said. "It's been a lot of fun."

Hambleton spends a lot of time on stage with community theatre enthusiasts Deitchman and Cindy Teerink of Rushmore.

Teerink, who plays Vera, said the play is very well cast.

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From building sandcastles on the lake shore to parades and fireworks, area communities gathered Thursday to celebrate America's birthday.



Kids enjoy a wagon ride as the crowd awaits the start of the Fourth of July parade in Okabena Thursday afternoon.



Photos by Tim Middagh/The Globe

People crowded onto the dock at Sailboard Beach Thursday night to watch the fireworks display over Lake Okabena in Worthington.



Midnight Forge Works Blacksmith Phillip Hannan heats a metal rod in the forge during the Old Fashioned Fourth of July at Pioneer Village in Worthington.



Engineers Tenlee Pick (in blue) and Sophia Nolz build a fortress during the Fourth at the Lake Sand castle contest in Luverne.

Pipestone National Monument invites kids to 'Read with a Ranger'

By Leah Ward
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PIPESTONE — Pipestone National Monument launched its new 'Read with a Ranger' program Thursday afternoon.

"We are really interested in getting Dakota children, as well as children from other tribes, connected not only with the quarry, but with their heritage," said program coordinator and Interpretive Park Ranger Jessica Borden. Knowing that oral tradition is a key component of many tribal cultures, Borden thought reading stories would be a fitting way to invite that connection.

Borden recruited fellow Interpretive Park Ranger Gabrielle Drapeau, who is of Dakota

descent, to lead the program, and 'Read with a Ranger' was born.

The free program begins at 3 p.m. each Thursday for six weeks, with a final event Aug. 8. Children ages 12 and younger are invited to interact with the story and participate in an optional activity following the reading. Each session lasts 30 to 60 minutes.

The stories selected feature Native American characters and themes. They are engaging to children, Borden said, but also include a moral component.

Along with the reading, "The Pipestone Indian Shrine Association (a partner organization of Pipestone National Monument) has graciously agreed to spon-

sor a coloring contest associated with the story series, so each week the children will receive a coloring sheet related to the content of the story that is being read," Borden added. "Children can turn in the entries anytime during the week following their story session, and entries will be on display within the Visitor Center. Winners will be selected in mid-August following the final session of the story series."

Borden said she wanted to incorporate some language-learning into the program. Each week, children will learn a new Dakota word that relates to that week's story.

"This week, the participants learned the Dakota name for one



Special to The Globe

Interpretive Park Ranger Gabrielle Drapeau reads "The Great Race of the Birds and Animals" by Paul Goble to children Thursday during the first session of Pipestone National Monument's 'Read with a Ranger' program.

of the key characters in the book — the magpie — which was also the subject of this week's coloring sheet," Borden said. "As part of the storytelling process, the children would speak the Dakota word when the story prompted them to do so."

Borden added that she hopes to include language workshops

in the future.

Participants in 'Read with a Ranger' are asked to arrive 10 to 15 minutes early and sign in at the Visitor Center. The location of the reading may vary, and rangers can provide instructions. Questions can be directed to (507) 825-5464 or pipe_interpretation@nps.gov.

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