

Saturday, June 22, 2019 Worthington, Minnesota

The Globe

Today's Farm

No. 50 • dglobe.com

4-H Camp lures kids and counselors to Lake Shetek

By Julie Buntjer

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LAKE SHETEK — Under gray skies and popcorn showers, dozens of southwest Minnesota youths tested theories of gravity, formed wildlife tracks into plaster, made and devoured campfire pizzas and generally had loads of fun Thursday morning at Southwest Minnesota 4-H Camp.

For decades, the 4-H camp has taken over the Shetek Lutheran Ministries campground on Lake Shetek for one week each June. The week is split, with one contingent coming in Monday and departing Wednesday, and the second group coming in Wednesday and returning home on Friday. While University of Minnesota 4-H staff oversee the camp, the activities are planned and carried out by camp counselors — 4-H youth leaders who often apply year after year for the experience.

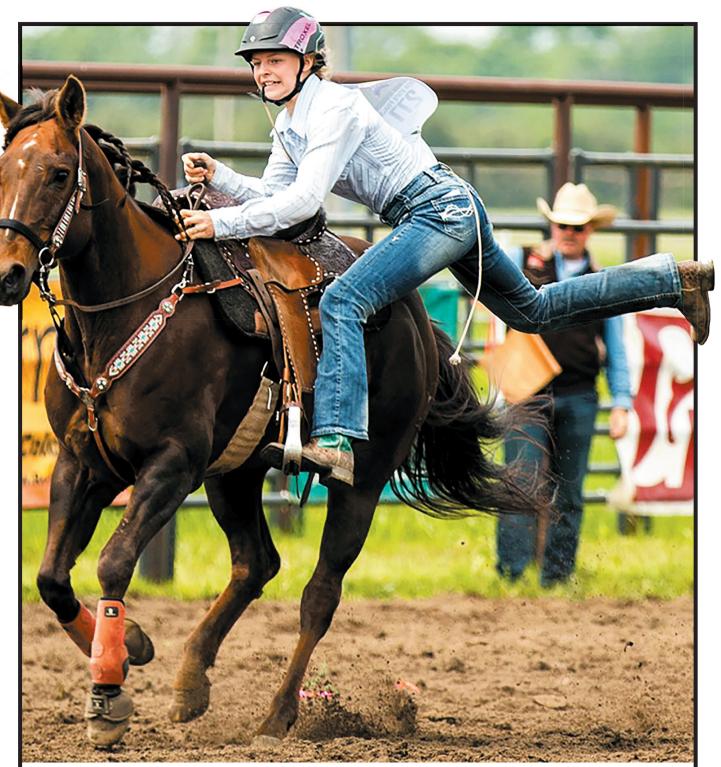
Nobles County had its highest contingent of camp counselors in recent history with nine youth leaders assisting with this week's camps. Among them were siblings Dakota and Cheyenna John of rural Lismore, who also happened to have their youngest brother, Damon, as a camper.

Dakota returned for his second year as a camp counselor, following in the tradition of two older brothers.

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Julie Buntjer / The Globe Rock County 4-H Summer Intern Brooke



HIGH-CALIBER

Hendrickx surveys the burnt s'mores cone that Rock County 4-H camper Austin Sandbulte had on the campfire. Sandbulte ate around the charred cone before making another attempt to get one done just right.

City council open to Thompson aid

By Leah Ward lward@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — City council members are willing to participate in renovations of the Hotel Thompson, they agreed during a Wednesday afternoon work session.

Worthington Director of Community Development, Planning, Zoning and Building Services Jason Brisson reminded council members that a decision still remains about whether or not to pay to re-roof the building. He added that a potential buyer is asking for tax increment financing (TIF), a program that requires no money upfront from the city but diverts property tax over a period of 26 years in order to alleviate costs for the developer.

Worthington City Administrator Steve Robinson added that if the council proceeds to authorize replacement of the roof, the city's total investment in the Thompson would come to about \$300,000.

"City council should have no false hope that any of that money will be recovered," he said.

The city has already purchased the material to replace the roof of the Thompson, but Robinson said there are two municipally owned buildings that also need new roofs, and the materials could be used on one of those buildings.

"Do we want to proceed with re-roofing without a firm contract from one of the private parties?" he asked the council.

Rural Brewster teen competing in world's largest junior high rodeo

By Alyssa Sobotka asobotka@dglobe.com

Huron, S.D. local teenager will be competing in the 2019 National Junior High L Finals Rodeo, which begins Sunday in Huron.

Tanner Marie Christoffers of rural Brewster qualified to compete in the goat tying event after marking

a personal record tie time of 9.37 seconds at the Minnesota Junior High Rodeo Finals in Cannon Falls earlier this month. The reserve champion earned her first ticket to the world's largest national junior high rodeo competition, in which roughly 1,000 youths in grades six through eight will compete from 44 states, five

COMPETITION: Page A5

Above: Tanner Marie Christoffers dismounts horse Taycee during a goat tying competition. Photo courtesy of Chloe K Photography



Special to The Globe The Worthington Farmers Market opens at 4 p.m. Tuesday for the 2019 season.

Local farmers market kicks off season Tuesday

By Alyssa Sobotka asobotka@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — Producers are gearing up for Tuesday's opening of the Worthington Farmers Market season, which organizers say will have both new and returning programs.

The market will be open Tuesdays and Saturdays through October. The Tuesday market is open from 4 to 7 p.m. in downtown Worthington between Wells Fargo and the Worthington Fire Station. Saturday's 6:30 a.m. to noon market in the ACE Hardware parking lot won't begin until July **MARKET:** Page A5

6, due in part to the slow start to this year's growing season.

As always, the farmers market will be a destination to purchase fresh produce grown within an approximately 60-mile radius. Select vendors will also offer fresh baked and canned goods.

For the fourth year, market visitors will be able to use their credit and debit cards or Electronic Benefits Transfer to utilize Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. Thanks to grant funding, market dollars will also be available



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