



graduation photos by RYAN BERGERON

Vehicles filled the Greenbush Race Park parking lot area for the Greenbush-Middle River Twenty-Eighth Annual Commencement on May 24, an event honoring the 31 GMR graduates while abiding by COVID-19-related graduation ceremony guidance handed down from the state.



GMR High School graduate Joe DeZelar sprays some silly string while riding in the back of a truck during the car parade that followed the GMR graduation ceremony. The parade started at the Greenbush Race Park parking lot and ended near LifeCare Greenbush Manor.

GMR graduates

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Towards the end of the ceremony—guided by GMR Principal Sharon Schultz— graduates, one at a time, pulled up near the stage in vehicles, grabbed their diploma cases, walked atop that stage, and stood and smiled with that diploma case in hand for photos. Staying in their vehicles, family members parked momentarily in front of the stage to capture their graduate's milestone moment. The graduates then grabbed a couple flowers from the vase before descending the stairs on the other side of the stage as graduates of Greenbush-Middle River High School.

Car horns sounded when Larry Guggisberg presented the Class of 2020. The seniors and their families then drove off for their parade through Greenbush, led by Roseau County Sheriff Steve Gust and a host of emergency vehicles. The Roseau County Mounted Posse had guided the vehicles out of the race park parking lot and also had guided the vehicles into the parking lot at the beginning of the ceremony.

During the parade, starting at the race park and ending near LifeCare Greenbush Manor, the graduates stopped their vehicles in front of the GMR School one at a time. They remained

in their vehicles to get their gift bags— handed off to each of them by members of the Kurt and Bridget Stenberg family. The parade came to a close just a few minutes past 3 pm, putting an official end to these seniors' GMR chapter.

The GMR Class of 2020 included the following graduates: Lexi Benke, Aubre Berg, Jacob Bergsnev, Keaton Black, Grace Brandon, Zachary Clark-Solom, Aaliyah Creekmore, Gage Creekmore, Joseph DeZelar, Michael Diaz, Andrew Dostal, Zachery Evans, Jamee Foss, Eian Gustafson, Shundra Hanson, McKayla Housey, Ella Koebnick, Ganon Kuznia, Landon Kvien, Tristan Locken, Dade Melby, BreeAnna Novacek, Kaden Opdahl, Piper Sondreal, Sarah Stanelle, Kyle Stauffenecker, Max Utter, Alyssa Waage, Abigail Wagner, Dominique Wojciechowski, and Kally Wojciechowski.

A list of the scholarships and other recognitions these graduates, as well as the Badger graduates, earned, and the May GMR School Board story will be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Tribune*.

City

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occupancy to no more than 50 percent. He also has directed his cabinet to put together similar guidance on safely re-opening bars, restaurants, barber shops and salons starting on June 1.

Speaking of plans, the Greenbush Community Partners (GCP) came to the city with a plan to safely use the Greenbush Welcome Park again for the "Thursdays in the Park" meals this summer, a plan that includes, among other things, doing just takeout orders and maintaining the six feet apart social distancing guidelines.

Since this event takes place on city property and some of the events held there fall under the city licensure, the city had to approve the Greenbush Community Partners plan allowing for "Thursdays in the Park."

"Obviously, if they (GCP) have already come up with this plan, I think they're willing to put in the effort to make it happen," council member Christine Foss said before the council approved the plan. "So I think we should give them the chance to make it happen."

Even though the city approved the plan, it will have to enforce it and ensure the group is following the guidelines set forth in its plan to avoid any liability issues. If the city doesn't enforce and follow these COVID-19-related guidelines, it would potentially not have insurance coverage and the city would take on all the liability if something were to go wrong, City Clerk Anita Locken explained.

"That really makes you stop and wonder and think about how much stuff we should allow and shouldn't allow," Locken said, "and what do we open (and) what don't we open."

The issue of liability arose numerous times during these COVID-19-related discussions. Several council members voiced their displeasure on this issue.

"We got to start moving forward if we can, if we can do it safely," council member Dennis Filer said. "... If this liability issue is what it's coming to, we might as well go home. Shut the doors and go home."

Council member Christine Foss agreed with Filer.

"This is getting ridiculous... I'm so frustrated with all of this. We have to start doing stuff," Foss said. "I mean, if it's a liability issue, then maybe they (GCP) can find somewhere else to do it. I mean, I don't know... I'm sick of hearing liability."

As for the "Thursdays in the Park" plan, Mayor Sather said she would visit with the GCP regarding the guidelines.

As part of this discussion, the city addressed the usage of several other places, including the pool, the Legion Park campground, and the Greenbush Community Center, and the hosting of summer-rec baseball, clean up week, and the Fourth of July celebration.

As for the pool, community center, and legion park, Mayor Brenda Sather said that July 1 is being thrown around as a potential starting date by other cities. Locken explained how at this time, the Community Center, Legion Park campground and pool were not allowed to open based on the Governor's last executive order.

"At this point they (these public places) would remain closed tentatively till July 1, unless we would hear differently," Sather said.

Foss was hesitant to wait until July 1. "I just think people need to get back to normal and I know normal is going to be different for a while but... I think keeping everything locked up is not the answer... but that's just my personal opinion," Foss said. "So I just think as soon as we are allowed to, I think we need to open those things up because I think too many people are just, they're scared."

Walsh explained how he would like to begin to see the community getting back together. As far as parks and camping, he would like to see these types of things start to open.

"I think we've all created enough safe distance and know all the guidelines to follow," Walsh said. "So as far as the city, I think I

would try to encourage as much as we can and try to give back."

Locken mentioned how any facility the city does open, it has to have a plan for. Sather thought the city could work this out, but added how she thought the pool would a little tougher in this regard. She highlighted how guidance related to the pool, including needs and acceptable practices, remains a "little gray."

"I'm not comfortable saying at this point that it (the pool) is closed," Sather said, "although it looks like it's going to be. But if something changes and we could reopen... I want us to keep that option open."

Sather explained how she wasn't sure at what point the city could economically open the pool, plus whether or not it would have enough workers to do so. Swimming lessons likely wouldn't happen, Sather said, and they represent the largest portion of the pool's revenue.

If the pool doesn't open this summer, Sather mentioned how the city could do some of the renovation work it's been looking to do in the pool house, potentially continuing to talk with a contractor to get this work lined up this year so the pool is ready to open next summer.

The city did officially extend the closure of the Legion Park campground until such time Minnesota allows it to be open. The city has been given the go ahead to open up the playground equipment.

As for the Community Center, Locken said that one thing the city would need to consider with opening this up for events is the people count, only allowed to have 10 people there.

"So how are we going to enforce it," Locken said, "if they only had 10 people in that building?"

As for clean-up week, the city approved the hosting of this event for June 1-6.

Summer-rec baseball remains a question mark. The program is willing and interested in putting together a plan for hosting this program safely, but was just looking to council for support to allow the season to take place, given this program falls under the city's umbrella. At the time, the city didn't have a safety plan in place from the program yet.

"We have to have a lot more answers before we can make a decision like that," Filer said. "I mean, we have to have guidance from the state first."

Locken said the state's guidance says that it can host such a program if they ensure guidelines are being followed.

"How do you make six-year-olds out there playing t-ball stay six feet away from each other," Locken asked.

"Yeah, that doesn't make sense," Filer said.

Sather voiced her thoughts on the summer-rec issue.

"I feel like it's hard to make a decision— yes, we will support it (or) no, we won't— when we don't know what that plan says," Sather said.

Sather mentioned how some of the plans she has seen from the state is making sure no traveling to different towns takes place and that it's a practice-limited program. She planned to meet with John Wilebski, summer-rec program coach, to work out potential plans.

As for the Fourth of July, the city has already signed the contract for the fireworks and they will go on as scheduled at the race park.

"We just wouldn't be able to open up the (race park) seating, but they would be able to park wherever and stay in their cars," Sather said.

As for everything else related to this annual celebration, that remains a question mark. Sather said the city would talk with GCP to see about some of the ideas out there related to this celebration.

Next Meeting: The city's next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on Monday, June 15 at 5:30 pm.



GMR High School graduate Piper Sondreal smiles from the comforts of a vehicle with her family prior to the start of the GMR graduation ceremony. Sondreal was one of six honor students in the GMR Class of 2020.



submitted photo

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jacobson on their wedding day, May 14, 1960.

Jacobson

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Wedding bells were ringing on May 14, 1960, when the couple was united in marriage at 8:00 p.m. at the Bethel Lutheran church in Greenbush by Rev. John Helgeson.

"Whether it rained or not, we were getting married," Ron said assertively.

Their attendants included: Ivan Nesteby, bestman; Audrey Huartson, maid of honor; Lewallyn Huartson, groomsmen; Darwin Jacobson, bridesmaid; Celeste Huartson, ring bearer; and Maureen Jacobson, flower girl.

Ron's 1949 two-door Ford provided the newlyweds with transportation on their honeymoon. Their first overnight stay was at Warren, Minn.,

where they spent the night at the motel along highway 59, which they said is still there. The next morning Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson were breakfast guests of the Huartson's family pastor while at Roseau, Rev. Borchert and family. After spending the night at the T-59 motel in Thief River Falls, it was time to return home.

Ron and his father went into a farming partnership which continued until Myron's retirement. Ron and Shelah then purchased the farm.

"We grain farmed and had dairy cattle," Ron said. "After the barn burned down in October, 1977, we sold the

cattle. The dairy herd went to Hawley, Minn., and the next spring the heifers that were going to calf were sold ... got twice as much as when I sold the dairy cattle!"

When asked about going through any "bad" years of farming, he replied, "1968-1970, and 1985."

Ron has served on the Ag Service board, township board, the United Free Church board, Roseau Co. Township Officers board, and Two Rivers Watershed district.

Shelah is a member of the United Free WMF and enjoys quilting, helped chased turkeys for a number of years ... and cooking.

"I thought Shelah had a full time job taking care of the kids," Ron said.

The Jacobsons are parents of eight children, namely: Gene (Molly); Gwen (LaMarr) Lorenson; Trina (Kelly) Bengston; Troy; Chad; Carisa (Jack) Erickson; Murray (Jessica), and Melanie (Shane) Ziska. The extended family includes sixteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Murray and Jessica Jacobson are current owners of the farm.

Retirement has found the high school sweethearts traveling south two to three months each winter for the last twelve years. They have been to Arizona, New Mexico to visit Lewallyn and his wife Jan; to Connecticut to visit son Troy; to San Antonio, Texas where Darwyn resides, and spent last winter in Nevada.

"It's amazing how busy we are when we get older," Ron commented. "I'm not sure about the new life style ... this coronavirus thing, we're doing okay - staying home other than going to the grocery store and once in a while to the doctor."

Congratulations on 60 years of togetherness, Ron and Shelah Jacobson!