

Friday night was perfect for a flight



From the left, Emma, Jason, Aaron, and Elizabeth Fredrickson work as a crew to get the Starburst of Destiny in the air on Friday near Zumbrota. Also on the crew were Sara Fredrickson and Jill Plank, both of Zumbrota.

By Faye Haugen

ZUMBROTA – Aaron Fredrickson of Pine Island has always wanted to go up in a hot air balloon. He was able to knock that wish off his bucket list on Friday evening when everything fell into place.

Bethany Reuter, now of the Twin Cities, learned all she needed to know about piloting a hot air balloon from her dad Dan who started flying in 1983 on the Stardrifter in Mapleton. Dan was a certified flight instructor in single and multi-engine airplanes and hot air balloons. Dan passed away three years before Bethany got her license to pilot balloons, but the twenty-five-year old continues the family legacy with her Starburst of Destiny balloon.

Reuter often takes family and friends up in her three-person balloon and that was the case in Zumbrota on Friday when Jason Fredrickson of Victoria, arranged to have his brother Aaron take flight. Jason's son Alex and Reuter are dating.

Starting from a hayfield northwest of Zumbrota, Aaron was hoping to float over Zumbrota. But the winds directed the flight southwest once the balloon got in the air.

The crew of Jason and wife Elizabeth Fredrickson, sisters Jill Plank and Sara Fredrickson both of Zumbrota, and Aaron and his 12-year-old daughter Emma Fredrickson helped get the balloon laid out and ready for flight under Reuter's instruction. While Reuter often flies near her hometown of Mapleton, she drove to Zumbrota to give Aaron and Jason's mom, Elaine, a chance to watch the flight.

Once in the air at about 7 p.m., the light winds moved the three passengers, Aaron, Emma, and Reuter to the southwest over farm fields, across Highway 52, down the Zumbro River, past Shades of Sherwood campground, and on to Wanamingo where the balloon touched down behind Maple Island in Wanamingo as the sun was setting.

"The time went so fast. It seemed like we were in the air



Jason Fredrickson, left, and Elizabeth Fredrickson, right, pull on the sides of the balloon as pilot Bethany Reuter fires up the burners before Friday's flight.

for about 10 minutes," said Aaron Fredrickson after the hour and a half flight. "We got as high as 2,000 feet and were able to see both Zumbrota and Wanamingo. It was so peaceful and really cool."

Plenty of cattle and many deer were spotted on the trip. "We dropped down into the tree tops and got to within 20 feet of someone's patio," remarked Aaron. "No one came out of the house to talk to us."

Once the trip was completed, the Fredrickson crew helped fold up and load the balloon back into Reuter's cargo unit.

A physical therapy student, Reuter does not make as many balloon trips as she used to, but she will take customers up for a ride when time is available.

For Aaron Fredrickson, skydiving is next on his bucket list.

Right: Elizabeth Fredrickson and Jill Plank wave good-bye to Jason and Emma Fredrickson and balloon pilot Bethany Reuter as they begin their flight on Friday northwest of Zumbrota.



Goodhue County 4-H members will get their day at the fair

By Faye Haugen

ZUMBROTA – When the Goodhue County Fair Board cancelled the 2020 annual get-together in Zumbrota due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it left Goodhue County 4-H members with uncompleted projects.

The good news is that Goodhue County 4-H members will get their day at the fair to have their projects judged. They will be judged the week of August 9-15 at the fairgrounds in Zumbrota.

Individual projects will be judged on Monday, August 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Judges and 4-H members will be scattered around the different buildings with one hour pre-scheduled time brackets that allow judges and 4-H members 10 minutes for judging. Five minutes will be used to clean up before the next 4-H member sits down with the judge.

Animal projects will be judged throughout the week. The horse show will be held on Sunday, August 9 beginning at 9 a.m. Sheep will be in the show arena on Tuesday, August 11 beginning at 9 a.m. Poultry will also be shown on Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m. Rabbits (8 a.m.) and beef (2 p.m.) will be judged on Wednesday, August 12. The swine show will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, August 13. Dairy cattle will be judged on Friday, August 14 at 9 a.m., and the goat show will wind up competition on Saturday, August 15 beginning at 9 a.m.

Only 4-H members, immediate family, judges, and volunteers will be allowed on the fairgrounds. Masks will be required for all participants.

There will be no animals stalled at the fairgrounds except for swine the day of the show. Wash racks will only be available to clean up from trailering animals to the grounds. All animals must be



Ian Witham of the Belvidere Happy-Go-Luckies 4-H club shows his rabbit at the rabbit show at the 2019 Goodhue County Fair. Despite the 2020 Goodhue County Fair being called off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 4-H members will get the chance to have their projects judged the week of August 9-15 at the fairgrounds in Zumbrota.

close to ready to show and animals must be kept in their trailers when not in the show arena.

Those participating are encouraged to bring their own food. No food vendors or concessions will be available.

Unlike past years, 4H members with champion and blue ribbon projects will not be advancing to the Minnesota State Fair. The "Great Minnesota Get Together" was cancelled late in the spring.

ZM ISD 2805

**SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT 2805
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

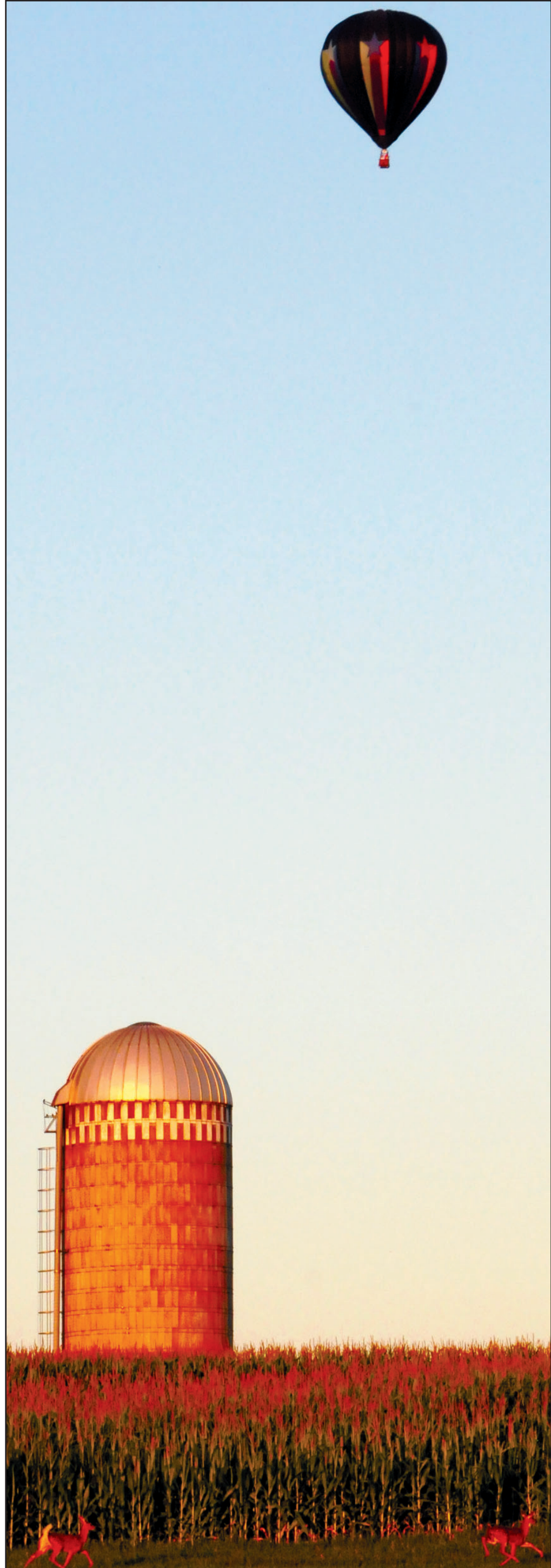
Due to the current federal and state emergency declarations and guidance about limiting person-to-person contact due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, by action of the school board of Zumbrota-Mazeppa ISD 2805, all future meetings of the Zumbrota-Mazeppa School Board will be conducted in accor-

dance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021 - Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means - until further notice. Please visit the school district website at www.zmschools.us on the day of the scheduled meeting for instructions on how to access audio of the meeting and provide public comment.

All board action is by roll call vote.
I. Call Work Session to Order (Action)
II. Consider Changes to the Agenda (Action)
III. Adopt Agenda (Action)
IV. Items for Discussion A. 2020-21 Handbooks

B. Review Paraprofessional Agreement
C. Policy Review
D. Review Principal Agreement
E. Review Administrative Assistant Agreement
F. Construction Updates
G. Covid 19 Updates, including Fall planning
H. Approve Hiring of New Staff for the 2020-21 School Year
I. Discuss 2020-21 District Goals
J. Discuss future board meeting format- In person or virtual
V. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

ZM32-1F



The Starburst of Destiny floats past a silo, cornfield, and two surprised deer on Friday, July 31 northeast of Wanamingo.

News-Record photos by Faye Haugen