

MAPLE GROVE:

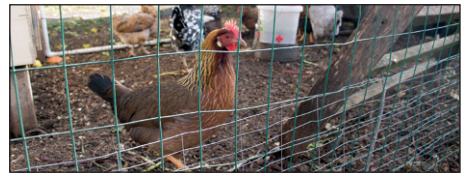
Crimson Boys Swim and Dive team are section champions.
See page 10

OSSEO:

Osseo council approves youth summer sports programming.
See page 3

CHAMPLIN:

Champlin looks to reconsider allowing chickens in the city.
See page 3



One of the many flavors of ice cream is scooped into a dish at the grand opening event at Two Scoops in Osseo. On Saturday, March 13, Two Scoops hosted its grand opening celebration. (Photo by Alicia Miller)

Two Scoops of fun in Osseo

New ice cream shop hosts grand opening

By **ALICIA MILLER**
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Chocolate, old-fashioned vanilla, cookie dough, superman, cinnamon stick, and peanut butter cup are just a few of the mouth-watering options customers can choose from at Two Scoops. With over 100 flavors of ice cream, Osseo's new ice cream shop has something for everyone.

Rick Ritter and his wife, Cherie, opened the Osseo store last October but had a grand opening celebration Saturday, March 13. This is their second Two Scoops location.

"Back in 2010, I was in banking and there was the financial crisis," Cherie Ritter said. "I got out

of banking and we decided we've always wanted to open up an ice cream shop, so we did. We opened in Anoka in 2010."

The Ritters have loved being in the small town atmosphere that Anoka offers. The Anoka location has supported the community in youth sports and youth arts. "It's been a lot of fun," Cherie Ritter said.

They decided a few years ago that they wanted to expand to a second location. Rick and Cherie Ritter hired their son, Bill to become the manager at the Anoka location while they scouted out potential sites for expansion.

"We had actually visited Osseo three or four years ago and liked how it felt, but it wasn't the right timing for us," Cherie Ritter said.

OSSEO... to page 2

Using pain for a new purpose

Champlin family using a tragedy to bring about change

By **SAM JOHNSON**
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Dave Schink loved being with dolphins.

It was a joy that the Champlin resident got to experience every winter when he and his wife, Judy, vacationed down to Florida. "The dolphins and he were friends," Judy said.

Staying in Destin, Florida, an area of the Florida panhandle, allowed for Dave Schink to interact with his aquatic friends anytime he wanted, doing something he loved: kayaking. Not a day would go by in the sunshine state where he wouldn't be out on his kayak or bike. According to Judy Schink, that is where he went to feel God's presence.

"He would go outside to get in touch with God," she said.

So, on Feb. 13, nothing seemed unusual when he departed with his kayak off of Norriego Point at 2:30 p.m.

Judy Schink expected her husband back before it got

dark, planning to go on a late-day walk. Even as the late-afternoon approached, she didn't think twice about Dave still being away. He had just gotten a new camera and she thought maybe wanted to capture photos of some of his new dolphin friends. But then as the sun went down, so did the chances of their walk.

THE SEARCH

"It was unusual for him to be gone as long as he was," Judy Schink said.

Judy Schink and her sister checked for Dave at the two launching areas nearby, as well as a sandbar, and couldn't find him. Judy then called the Coast Guard for help. In the back of her mind, she knew that Dave was someone who could handle seemingly any physical challenge. He was in excellent shape. From running Grandma's Marathon to biking across Minnesota seven times, Dave thrived in nature.

Once he picked up his bike and rode 100 miles in one day, just to say he did it. "He was always on the go," Judy Schink said.

He also taught and competed collegiately in swimming,

which gave the family hope that he had a good chance to make it to shore. The Coast Guard began to search the area, as well as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and Sheriff's department. Men and women with night goggles roamed the coastline, and two boats were sent in the water right away.



Champlin resident Dave Schink smiles with a paddleboard in hand. "He was always on the go," his wife Judy said. Dave went missing while kayaking in Florida last month. Judy is looking to create an aqua alert for missing persons on the water. (Photo courtesy of Judy Schink)

ALERT... to page 5

Maple Grove resident wins exclusive Evans Scholarship

By **ALICIA MILLER**
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One Maple Grove resident has been awarded a Western Golf Association's Chick Evans Scholarship.

This is one of the nation's largest privately-funded scholarships, providing recipients with a full, four-year tuition and housing at universities across the country.

Garrett Kaiser, a Wayzata High grad, was one of five students from Minnesota to receive the Chick Evans Scholarship, which is offered to golf caddies.

Kaiser will begin his scholarship this fall as an Evan Scholar at the University of Minnesota. The scholarship is estimated at



Maple Grove resident and Wayzata High grad Garrett Kaiser has been awarded a Western Golf Association's Chick Evans Scholarship.

a value of \$120,000 for the four years.

"I applied for the Evan's Scholarship through The Minnikahda Club in Minneapolis," Kaiser said. "I've been working there as a caddy for the past five years in hopes of getting this scholarship."

Currently, a record 1,045 caddies are enrolled in 19 universities across the nation as Evans Scholars, and more than 11,320 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars since the program was founded by famed Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr. An estimated 300 caddies nationwide are expected to be awarded the scholarship this year.

SCHOLAR... to page 5

Osseo council looking into train horn complaints

City working with Maple Grove on quiet zone study

By **ALICIA MILLER**
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Residents have been calling Osseo City Hall to leave complaints and are having discussions on social media about train horns that can be heard during all hours, particularly during the night at two of Osseo's BNSF railroad crossings.

The Osseo City Council addressed these concerns during the March 8 meeting.

City Administrator Riley Grams said, "We've all seen and fielded multiple complaints from

our residents concerning loud train horns."

He said this issue was something that has only popped up within the last year and has been growing.

Grams reached out to neighboring cities to find out what could be done. He heard back from Maple Grove. "They are going to move forward with a study with SRF consulting to look at whether or not a quiet zone is feasible, first and foremost, and if it is, what sort of improvements would need to be made at each of the crossings in order to facilitate a quiet zone," Grams said.

The cost to make a railroad crossing a quiet zone is high. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration, costs can

range between \$30,000 to more than \$1 million per crossing, depending on the number of crossing and types of safety improvements required.

Grams added the city of Maple Grove also reached out to the city of Dayton, as the rail line also travels through Dayton. There are six crossings in Maple Grove. He said Maple Grove mentioned the study is \$22,000 and has asked Osseo and Dayton to help pay for part of the study. Osseo and Dayton would each pay \$3,000 and Maple Grove would pay \$16,000.

"Maple Grove would be taking a lead from a contract administrative standpoint," he said.

"They would be handling everything at a staff level. Our staff would not be putting a whole lot of work into this. That is some-

thing that is a really good idea for us."

The study will summarize the existing conditions at each crossing, identify the minimum crossing improvements needed at each crossing to create a quiet zone, provide planning-level costs of the proposed improvements, and layout the next steps to get the quiet zone approved. Each city can then decide whether or not to proceed with the next steps. If they proceed, the cities would continue to work together to prepare any cost-sharing agreements, as needed for a quiet zone and future crossing improvements if that route is taken.

Grams mentioned that he spoke with Maple Grove staff on whether or not the city would liable if there were to be an accident or death at a quiet zone crossing.

They agreed the cities would not be liable as federal safety measures would be in place.

"The question before you tonight is, should we participate with some other cities in a quiet zone assessment study?" Grams asked. The city did not budget for the \$3,000 cost of the study, but Grams felt the study was a good idea for the city and residents.

Councilor Juliana Hultstrom said she felt the city owed it to the residents to at least do the study.

"I find it interesting that Maple Grove was already undertaking this study kind of on their own," Mayor Duane Poppe said.

The council approved the participation in the quiet zone assessment study for \$3,000.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Champlin resident creating aqua alert

ALERT... from page 1

The next day, they added more boats and planes to the search party, including a helicopter.

But no Dave. As they continued searching, the weather added to the misery of the situation. High winds blowing out to sea made it challenging to navigate the waters, and drones were unable to fly in the morning due to heavy fog, as heavy as Judy Schink had ever seen.

During the search and rescue attempt, Judy and the family noticed a hiccup. The Coast Guard said only five boats initially showed up to scan the waters, but due to a watercraft advisory, only one could go out into the bay to search. Frustrated, Judy Schink eventually rented a helicopter to search for her husband.

When she landed, she heard the news: Dave's kayak was found, but not Dave.

"That is the most sickening news you can get," she said.

Before his ride that afternoon, Dave had only used the kayak a dozen times. It was so new, the plastic still covered the watercraft.

Along with the kayak, he had what he thought was a sturdy paddle. However, when the Schink's were kayaking previously with those paddles, one of Judy's snapped off within 100 feet

of starting.

In Dave Schink's recovered kayak, only half of the paddle remained. According to Judy, investigators believe that it fell apart when Dave was kayaking. But besides that, no one knows for certain how and why Dave tragically died.

"He was experienced...it wasn't that he didn't know where he was going," Judy Schink said. "We will never know what happened."

IDEA FOR 'AQUA ALERT'

Amid pain and tragedy, Judy and the family are still trying to bring about good. When they were waiting while the search parties were on the water, Judy's son Dan noticed that the separate agencies were all working together, yet gathered information independently.

"It was so time-consuming," Judy Schink remembered saying. Because of the family's frustration, Dan Schink suggested an idea that came to mind to aid the search and rescue process: an amber alert for people on the water.

They coined the term 'aqua alert.' Judy Schink said when she initially pitched it to the Coast Guard, it was well-received.

Paul Barnard is the Coast Guard 8th district recreational boating safety program manager.

His job is the market boating safety through whatever means he can, specifically with boaters. Barnard began this job two years ago but has served with the Coast Guard for 35 years, including 20 years conducting search and rescue.

After Dave Schink's kayak was found, Barnard learned that Judy Schink wanted to use this tragedy and turn it into a force for good. When they talked, Judy Schink brought up the concept of the aqua alert, and Barnard, who liked the idea, said just the week before they met, he had also been thinking of a way to improve maritime alert notices for boaters.

One element that Barnard wants to use is social media. As a part of 12 boating and kayaking Facebook groups, he knows how digital connectedness can be a powerful weapon for spreading messages in real-time.

"Social media can serve as an incredible force for good," Barnard said. Along with digital notices, he would like to see more brochures in hotel and condo lobbies explaining the tips of boater safety, and possibly a network of beach cameras that would help the search and rescue process.

Sparking change amid a tragedy is a courageous

venture. With the raw and tender emotions still present, Barnard is amazed that Judy is using this devastation to think about others and how to prevent this from happening again.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for Judy," he said. "It takes a lot of courage and strength."

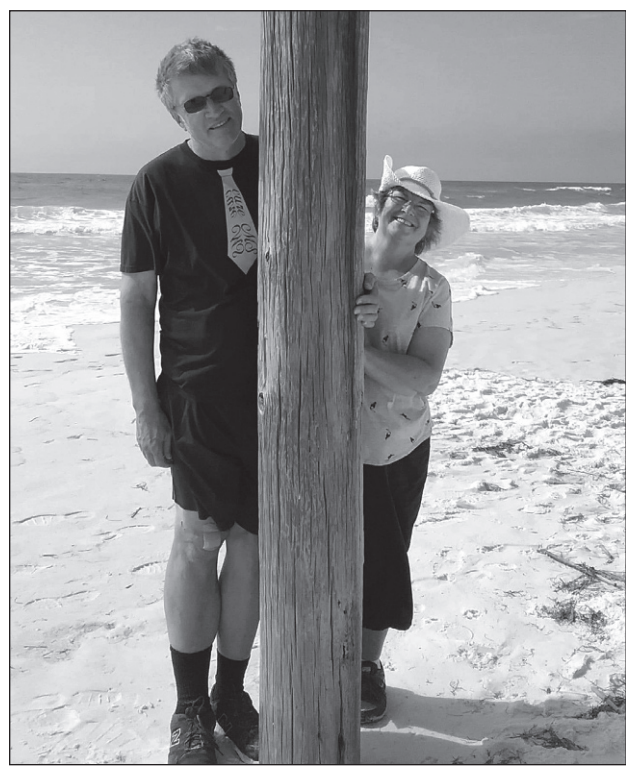
While both Judy Schink and Barnard are still in the idea-generating phase for a new alert system, they are confident that change will come from Dave's senseless death.

"Tragedies like this are the driving force for change," Barnard said. "We are going to improve our alert network. We are going to do it."

'IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYBODY'

The more the Schinks talked with experts, the more they realized what could have been done to possibly prevent this from happening. Dave Schink didn't take his phone with him, so he wasn't able to be tracked with a GPS locator.

Boats longer than 10 feet are required to have reflecting tape on them. Dave Schink's kayak was nine feet, nine inches, and they left the reflecting tape at home. "We got so frustrated and it was more despairing when we learned there was more we could have done," Judy Schink said.



Champlin residents Dave and Judy Schink enjoy time at the beach. (Photo courtesy of Judy Schink)

But for this to happen to someone like Dave, who knew the waters well, was physically fit, a good swimmer, and wore his life-vest, it is a caution to others to take water safety very seriously.

"If it can happen to Dave, it can happen to anybody," she said.

Over the last month, Judy said that one thing has gotten her through this tragedy: her faith in God. "I know Dave is in Heaven," she said. "That is such a great comfort."

Judy Schink and the family have set up a GoFundMe page, david-schink-res-

cue-fund, where proceeds will go to promoting the aqua alert and other water safety initiatives they are working on.

During this grieving process, Judy Schink is thankful she has 38 years of memories with Dave to hold onto. And until they meet again one day, she hopes that this unspeakable loss will be a catalyst to promote new water safety measures and save as many lives as possible.

"I am not going to rest until I see progress has been made," she said. "I can't."

Maple Grove resident awarded Chick Evans Scholarship

SCHOLAR... from page 1

"These young students all have shown excellence in the classroom and in their communities, as well as on the golf course," said John Kaczkowski, WGA president and CEO.

Scholarship funds come mostly from contributions made by 32,500 golfers across the country, who are members of the Evans Scholars Par Club program. Evans Scholars Alumni donate more than \$15 million annually, and all proceeds from the BMW

Championship, the third of four PGA TOUR Playoff events in the PGA TOUR's FedExCup competition, are donated to the Evans Scholars Foundation.

Kaiser is grateful to have received the scholarship. "It's an amazing opportunity to be able

to go to school without having to worry about debt," he said.

He is currently a freshman at the University of Minnesota in the College of Science and Engineering and am majoring in mechanical engineering.

"During my four years at the

U of M, I hope to pursue my interest in engineering as well as giving back to my community," Kaiser said. "I am currently involved in our electric formula team and would also like to be involved in research programs during my time here."

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