



Lisa Ingebrand Photo

Music in the park

The New Prague Area Community Band performed a free concert in Memorial Park on Thursday, June 9. Dozens of people enjoyed an evening outdoors and tunes from around the world.

New Prague Police joining others in rewarding safety

The New Prague Police Department is joining more than 360 Minnesota law enforcement agencies in rewarding youngsters in being safe while wearing a helmet. If “caught” a child may find themselves making a trip to the local Dairy Queen.

As part of AAA’s “I Got Caught” campaign, as many as 100,000 Minnesota youth will be written a “citation” for a free small DQ cone for wearing a helmet while biking, scootering, skateboarding or in-line skating.

New Prague Police Chief Jim Gareis said they have been participating in the program for the last several years. “It’s brought awareness to wearing helmets,” said Chief Gareis. He added that New Prague has also held a bike safety program where the police department provides helmets to families at an economical price or no cost. “It helps that young people understand the importance of wearing helmets,” said Chief Gareis.

According to a 2018 study published in the National Library of Medicine, the use of bicycle helmets was found to reduce head injury by 48 percent, serious head injury by 60 percent and traumatic brain injury by 53 per-

cent. A previous Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study had also found that law enforcement and other safety officials can reinforce the need to wear a helmet through positive interactions such as free or discounted helmet distribution programs and incentives for helmet use.

Supporting sponsors of the annual campaign include the Minnesota Sheriffs Association, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, MN Toward Zero Deaths, AAA and DQ.

Due to overwhelming positive response from communities, the number of “citations” written by law enforcement agencies across Minnesota has grown over the last decade, according to Meredith Mitts, Minnesota spokesperson for AAA-The Auto Club Group. Since the program’s start, more than 1 million citations for a free DQ cone have been issued to youth across the state.

For more information about the DQ system, visit DairyQueen.com. Connect with the DQ system on Twitter using #HappyTastesGood and follow the system at twitter.com/dairyqueen. Visit the DQ Facebook fan page and become a friend at facebook.com/dairyqueen.

Leading ladies

4th grader is nominated for Best Child Actress at film festival

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She’s 10 and has already starred in multiple films. Tenley Boushek, daughter of Devin and Sonya Boushek of New Prague, just completed fourth grade at New Prague’s Falcon Ridge Elementary and was recently nominated for the Best Child Actress award at Z-Fest Film Festival, an annual Twin Cities based contest-style film festival that features original, seven-minute, short films.

“It’s a lot of fun,” Tenley said. “I do a lot of auditions, and I don’t get every role, but it’s really fun when I do get one!”

The young actress started performing as a dancer at the age of two.

Then, she got involved in theater and fell in love with acting.

Small roles led to bigger roles, which led to more opportunities and more performances, and eventually, she started auditioning for commercials and short films.

As a kindergartener, Tenley landed a role in the short film “Lemon Shark” directed by Kate Nowlin, which helped her learn the ropes of the film world and begin networking with other filmmakers.

Her resume now lists multiple commercials—including a short promotional film for Mountain Dew—a music video, and a dozen short films, ranging from feature Hallmark productions (“Christmas Inn Farmstead”) to short films.

“She’s driving all of this,” Tenley’s mom explained with a smile. “I grew up doing modeling and theater and some film work, but I never told my kids about any of it. Tenley discovered all of this pretty much on her own, and I’m along for the ride—supporting her and driving her where she needs to be.”

The mom-daughter duo has even managed to land co-starring roles, and they help each other prepare for auditions and filming days.

“It’s nice to have her there, on set,” Tenley stated. “Usually, I’m pretty focused while we’re filming, but it’s fun to be there together and talk about everything after the shoot.”

Sonya enjoys watching her daughter work and is often

amazed by her young daughter’s confidence and skill.

“Sometimes she’s the only kid on set, but she holds her own and interacts with everyone and asks questions if she needs to,” Sonya stated. “She’s even learned to cry on cue, which is something not all professional actors can do.”

Two of Tenley’s most recent roles were lead parts in the short films “The Puppet King” by JK Productions and “The Doll” by Alex Arredondo. Both films were nominated for numerous awards at the Z-Fest Film Festival in March, a glamorous event to which mom and daughter wore matching sparkly gowns.

The highlight of the event was Tenley being nominated for the prestigious Best Child Actress award.

The festival’s awards ceremony was held May 20.

“Tenley did not get the Best Child Actress, however her highlight was when her two films were both nominated in the same category for ‘Best Prop’ for ‘The Doll’ and her crown in ‘The Puppet King,’ and when they opened the envelope it was a tie,” Sonya shared. “To our surprise her two films both won ‘Best Prop’! It was a great moment!”

“The Doll” ultimately earned the Top 5th Place Film Award, Best Prop (Tenley’s doll), Best Lighting, Best Makeup (Sonya’s demon makeup), and the Audience Favorite Award.

“The Puppet King” raked in Best Prop, Best Anthropomorphic Character, and Best WTF Moment honors.

Tenley is already focusing her energy on her future film work and summer fun. In addition to being a young actress,

the no-television watching girl enjoys reading, playing with her friends, swimming, basketball, archery, volleyball, fishing, four-wheeling, and more.

“But, I really like acting,” spouted Tenley, who went on to share what she says is “the number one rule” in acting: “Don’t look at the camera!”



Photo courtesy of Sonya Boushek

Ten-year-old Tenley Boushek of New Prague was nominated for Best Child Actress at Z-Fest Film Festival for her role in “The Puppet King,” a short horror film directed by Nick Michael. Tenley is pictured with her mom, actress Sonya Boushek, who was also recognized at the festival. Tenley is holding the doll from the “The Doll” and wearing the crown from “The Puppet King”—films in which she held lead roles.

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