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BLAKES AREA REVIEW



LCCC tourney draws stiff competition

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Around the Lakes

Log Church 23rd annual celebration

SUNBURG – All are welcome to attend this 23rd annual celebration on August 21 starting at 12p.m. Enjoy a picnic dinner, music, lefse and coffee plus readers Theatre highlighting the pioneer women of Norway Lake. Location: 9601 195th Ave NW 5 miles SE of Sunburg.

Heartbeat meeting new location

WILLMAR – Heartbeat, suicide support group will be meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Email: yourwingsofhope@gmail.com or Heartbeatwillmar@gmail.com

Job fair

WILLMAR – The West Central Minnesota Job Fair takes place on Thursday, September 29 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Ridgewater College gymnasium, 2101 15th Ave NW, in Willmar. Bring your resume and dress for success! Meet the area's top human resource directors, business owners, manufacturers and employment services.

KCHS anniversary

WILLMAR – The Kandiyohi County Historical Society's 125th anniversary takes place Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds. A Civil War cannon firing takes place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Inserts

Teal's, TDS
Inserts may cover all or some of the total Review circulation as requested by the business placing the insert.

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Swimming at Saulsbury...

Nearly 200 athletes flocked to Spicer last weekend to swim, bike and run in the annual Green Lake Triathlon. (See page 12 for results.)

Photo by Linda K. Fostervold

Local drag show becomes constitutional issue

By Brett Blocker
Editor

A drag show scheduled to take place at the Little Theatre Auditorium Sept. 10 has become a constitutional First Amendment issue due to an outdated city ordinance defining adult use businesses. While the ordinance, as it stands, states that the upcoming performance (some of which is an age 18+ show) would be in violation of the ordinance due to the exclusion of minors, numerous other community events also are in violation of this provision – including the long-standing WaterDays Street Dance.

Just weeks away from the show, the city must now determine how to interpret, enforce and/or amend the ordinance, which will set a precedent for how this performance, and other age-restricted events, are allowed to occur within city

limits. The issue was brought to the city council Wednesday by over 60 residents and community members, who filled the hall to standing-room only – roughly half appearing to be in support of the performance, and half against, based on applause or audible groans in response to opinions voiced during the meeting.

While not on the original agenda, the item was added just prior to the council meeting following concerns largely from several local church leaders, who encouraged members of their congregations to attend as a means of getting the council to address their concerns about the show before it takes place – fearing that with the performance just weeks away, the item may not otherwise be added to an increasingly busy set of upcoming meetings. Having ap-

parently caught wind of the move, supporters of the show turned out in kind.

Opinions expressed during the meeting varied. All who were present, however, (including the council), seemed to agree on one thing: The city needs to update some of its codes.

The show

Earlier this year, the Little Theatre Auditorium commissioned Dominic Facio for its second annual Small Stages Artist in Residency program.

As previously reported, the residency application called on practicing artists to develop an original work – using the Little Theatre Auditorium as a venue – over the course of four-to-six weeks. Selection criteria includes that the artist focuses on community engagement, with the goal of “creating new approaches for how our citizens engage with

each other and with shared spaces, especially in this time of isolation, divisiveness and uncertainty.”

The artist receives stipend and budget for materials, with funds from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council. Ahead of the production itself, the artist will engage with the community through open studio sessions or workshops, and has the option of living in a nearby rental home during this time.

Facio is the rural program coordinator for Springboard for the Arts – a non-profit organization aimed at supporting community arts engagement.

Over the past several years, he has hosted drag shows titled “Catwalk Party” in Fergus Falls and other small towns throughout Minnesota, with his stated goal being to provide a means of expression for the LGBTQ+ community

(though all are invited to attend), and to break down social barriers. The shows do not involve nudity, but include some adult humor, he said.

He intends to bring a similar show to New London, which will feature an 18+ performance in the evening, and a youth performance during the day for ages 13-17.

As stated by Little Theatre Auditorium Director Bethany Lacktorin, in opening comments to the city council Wednesday:

“Drag pokes fun at what is deemed masculine, feminine, and takes the form of caricature, often challenges the status quo of what men and women should or shouldn't be or do. In a drag show, performers are portraying a character through makeup and costume – this is all very theatre, all

NL ordinance
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Antiques hit the streets

By Ralph Dickerson
Staff Writer

The annual New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run took place Saturday morning, starting at 7 a.m. Over 30 antique cars, most well over 100 years old, gathered at Peace Lutheran Church Saturday morning for the 120-plus mile trek to New Brighton. The setting resembled a scene from yesteryear as many participants dressed in period riding garb for the car run.

The procession of vehicles left Peace Lutheran Church for a trip around New London prior to heading to New Brighton. The antique cars left the church's parking lot, turned right on Oak Street, drove to 1st Ave SW, went right on 1st Ave to state Route 9, turned

right on state Route 9 and crossed the Mill Pond bridge and went to County Road 40, turned right on County Road 40, and headed off to the final destination.

According to organizers, Paul Schaefer, driving a Ford with a retractable roof, reached the destination in New Brighton first. Organizers stressed the car run was not a race, but a test of the reliability of the vehicles in question. One participant, Paul Elliott, has participated in and completed every run since its inception in 1987. He drove a red Maxwell with a horse buggy style retractable roof. Organizers aid all participants enjoyed the trip, and the fellowship of being around other antique car enthusiasts.



Paul Schaefer was the first vehicle to arrive in New Brighton after a 120-plus mile trip through the Minnesota countryside.

Photo by Ralph Dickerson

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