

With a 14-month-old baby at home, Kyle Blahnik is looking for more balance in his life. **Page B1**



INSIDE



A new logo has become the face of the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce, in addition to a rebranding for the organization. **Page A3**



Wilson Mills has been selling at the Pierce County Fair for 32 years, the longest tenured food vending tent. **Page A8**



It's August, and it's time for high school football. The Red Wing Wingers took to the practice fields this week. **Page B2**



This little yellow warbler flew into the same net used by researchers a year after it was first caught and tagged. **Page B10**



GOODHUE COUNTY FAIR



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

Abbie Meurer competed in the compact car class against the men.

Revving up the horsepower

Growing group of women challenge men on track

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

The two drivers pushed the accelerator pedals to the floor. The engines roared as they hurtled toward each other. Their cars slammed together, the violence of the collision evident in the wham and crumpling sheet metal, the two drivers pitching forward, their seat belts straining.

Then they backed up and did it again. And again. And again. After the fourth bone-jarring collision. They backed up and moved to another area of the track to try a different strategy.

This was a typical Saturday night demolition derby at the Goodhue County Fair. The two drivers were the remaining com-



Taylor Kish is ready to race before the demolition derby Saturday evening.

petitors in a contest that started with a dozen cars.

But these two drivers were not the typical competitors in a demo-

lition derby. Both were women, part of a small but growing group pushing their way into a male-dominated sport.

The men in the competition sat in their disabled cars watching the two women battle for the \$800 check that came with winning the class – mid-size cars with drivers 21 years old and younger.

Taylor Kish, the class winner, has been racing for the past four years since she was 16. Like many of the women racing at the Goodhue County Fair she started because her dad and brothers had raced and competed in demolition derbies.

"I started because all my brothers and my dad do it, so I had to start," she said.

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RED WING SCHOOLS

Nine vie for three seats on board

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

Nine candidates have filed to run for three Red Wing School Board seats.

Filing for spots on the ballot closed on Tuesday.

Two of the three incumbents, Jim Bryant and Holly Tauer, have filed for re-election bids.

The third incumbent, Arlen Diercks, announced at a recent board meeting that he will not be running for re-election.

"It has nothing to do with what has been going on in the last two years," Diercks said. "I was blessed with eight years, and it's been so rewarding to me to give back to the school that has given so much to me."

In addition to Bryant and Tauer, others filing for candidacy are:

- ▶ Terese "Mrs. B" Bjornstad.
- ▶ Benjamin Winter.
- ▶ Rachel Marshall Schoenfelder.
- ▶ Kristen Titus.
- ▶ Heather Rudawski.
- ▶ Jason Ramstad.
- ▶ Kayla Anderson.

The School Board election will be Tuesday, Nov. 8. Terms begin in January.

Also on the November ballot will be two questions asking voters to extend levies to supplement state school funding.

The district is asking voters for \$1,650 per pupil to extend the expiring tax levy.

The referendum has two parts:

- ▶ \$1,200 per student to improve current educational programs.
- ▶ \$450 per student, raising the total to \$1,650 per student, to build on the college readiness and

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RED WING

Rewriting history

Inaccurate historical sign removed from building

BY MELISSA THORUD
Staff Writer

This spring, an inaccurate historical sign in downtown Red Wing was brought to the city's attention.

A resident noticed the sign and its inaccuracies about the Dakota people and the land located in downtown Red Wing. The sign was on the building that Home Plate Grill acquired when they bought the building. "I'm familiar with the real history and just reading the sign I just thought, 'Whoa this is so crazy,' because I grew up in Red Wing, and I know I've probably walked by that sign 100 times and how that escaped me I have no idea," Corey Western Boy said.

Once she realized the sign had historically inaccurate information, she reached out to the mayor and the City Council.

"After I first read it, I just thought of who could I bring this to the attention of. I contacted the City Council, and I wasn't sure if they knew it was inaccurate so I sent attachments of the Treaty of 1862," she said.

"The treaty talks about the Dakota land cession where

the land was stolen from the Dakota people, it wasn't sold," she continued.

The sign stated how the buildings that were there, got there. It inaccurately had said that the Sioux sold lands east of the Mississippi, and they were missionaries sent to help the Indigenous peoples.

The explanation on the sign stating that the land was sold was inaccurate.

"The Dakota people have a strong history here in He Mni Can and their story is woven into the land. The Dakota people did not have missionaries. In fact, in 1819 Congress appropriated \$10,000 to pay missionaries to deploy to Native American camps and 'civilize' and suppress their traditional practices," Western Boy said in an email to the mayor and City Council.

"The land to which was 'sold' east of the Mississippi, was actually stolen in the 1837 Dakota Land Cession Treaty. They refused to sign this treaty in Mendota Heights along with the Ojibwe in June of 1837, so the Dakota were kidnapped, starved,

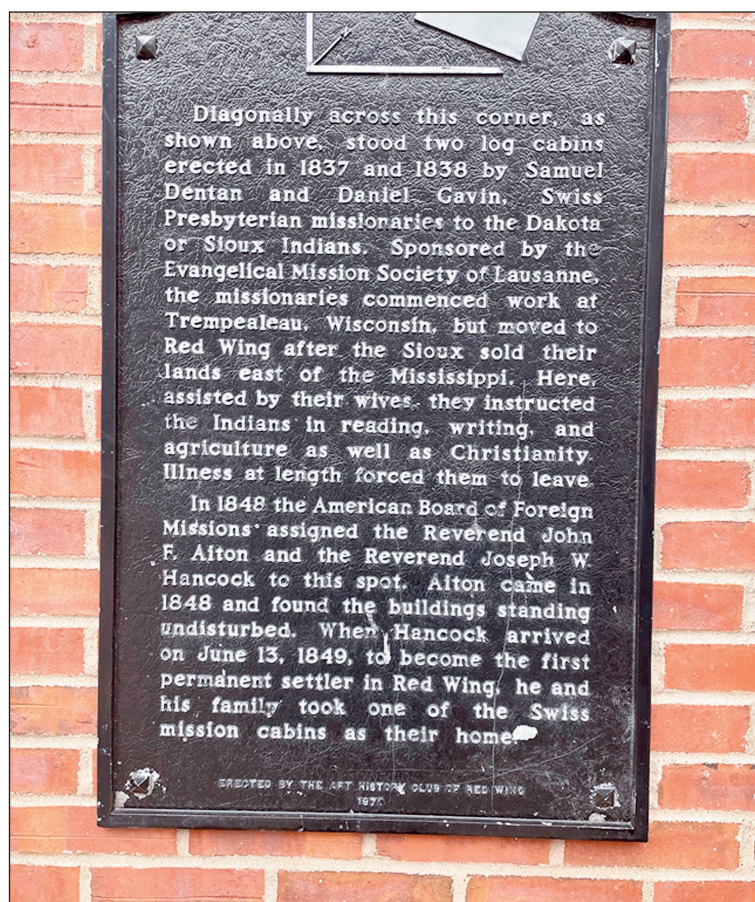


PHOTO COURTESY OF COREY WESTERN BOY

A photo of the removed sign that contained inaccurate historical information.

See Sign Page A10

OBITUARIES PAGE B5

- Evan Michael Burkel
- Eileen A. (Hanvelt) Jansen
- Marvin Johnson
- Ross Virgil Lausing
- Jean L. Lindstrom
- Martin Lohmann
- Jean MacMillan Ross
- Delores Shea
- Dale Wells

DRIVERS

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Kish's opponent when it came down to two cars was Sidney Majerus, who was in her first race. Still Majerus was familiar with Kish and knew about her reputation as a competitor. The two grew up next door neighbors.

"She's my neighbor," Majerus said. "I know that she usually wins, so I was trying to avoid her."

After their bone-jarring competition, the two women embraced and talked on the track while Majerus waited for her car to be towed off the track.

"It was really fun to run with her," Kish said. "I really enjoyed that. It was fun to be out there with a girl I knew, and I had fun with her."

What did they talk about after the race?

"I told her she did real good for her first derby and that I was amazed because she had some pretty darn hard hits," Kish said.

The two women were competing in the demolition derby. The previous night, the grandstand attraction was autocross – kind of a combination of stock car racing and demolition derby. In autocross, drivers race around the dirt track. Pushing somebody onto a bank on the small oval is common.

The autocross competition features a "powder puff" class for women. There is no women only class in the demolition derby.

Altogether in the two competitions there were about two dozen women competing. There were well over 100 men. Many of the women competing were like Majerus, driving in their first competition.

Keera Krauss, a 29-year-old from Rochester, was in her first race driving a minivan in competition that included men.

"We got to get more women in here," she said, adding her strategy was to "put it in first and give her hell."

She had a plea to other drivers painted on the back of her van: "Be gentle to me, I'm a girl."

Not everybody wanted to be treated gently.

Miranda Woodward races in both autocross and demolition derbies.

"Getting to compete is something I love to do," she said. "I played sports almost my entire life, so now that I'm not playing those anymore, I



Sidney Majerus is jolted forward as she slams head-on into Taylor Kish.

JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS



Above: Sidney Majerus' car was smoking but it was still running Saturday night. Left: Miranda Woodward is surrounded by male competitors in the drivers' meeting.



Doors are welded shut for safety. Drivers need to climb in and out through the windows. Here Kylie Ramsey climbs out of her car after finishing sixth in her heat.



Taylor Kish (left) talks with her next-door neighbor Sidney Majerus after the two finished one-two in the demolition derby Saturday evening.



Miranda Woodward touches up the paint on her demolition derby entry prior to the race.

moved into the competitive derby and autocross world."

She likes the demolition derby more than autocross.

"I feel it is a little bit more competitive," she said. "You have to be more strategic."

Then she added: "I kind of enjoy smashing the boys around."

Erin Ganrud from Zumbrota has the same attitude. She just turned 19 this month and is in her first year of autocross racing. She skips the powder puff class and goes up against the guys in the compact car class.

Why? "I got to emasculate

the men." Jenna Sommers of Lake City just competes in the powder puff.

"It's a really fun thing to do ... be out there at the track with the girls and just have a good time," she said.

Cassandra Hall is a 21-year-old interior design student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout who competes in the demolition derby. She likes to be a daredevil.

"Usually I get nervous and a lot of adrenaline before I go out there," Hall said. "And then when you get out there you forget about everything."

Saturday night she got knocked out of the derby early.

The intake fell off on her and the fuel sensor wasn't reading properly causing her engine to shut off.

"I was hitting hard. I wanted to let some anger out," she said. "I probably should have saved my front end."

What about first time driver Sidney Majerus, who came in second in her first derby? Will she be out there the following week?

"If the car can work by then."

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Kylie Ramsey is pushed into a bank in the autocross competition.



Keera Krauss has a message for other drivers painted on the back of her van.



Ashley Jervis smiles behind her helmet at the start of the race.



Allison Wing of Rochester was driving in her first autocross race. "I'm excited and nervous," she said.