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Paynesville Press



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Keeping The Faith

Hall of Fame
baseball coach
credits faith, family,
and friendships in
battling his mental
health demons

It's his recurring nightmare, based on the murder of his parents.

The first shot hits his mom, killing her instantly. But the second misses his dad, who sits up in bed. The third shot strikes him, but what his dad went through in those few seconds terrifies Brad Skoglund.

Did he realize what was happening? Did he know that his wife had been killed? Did he understand that the gunman

in their bedroom was his son? "The nightmare is what Dad went through for those few seconds. The anguish. Aww!"

"That he knew what was taking place," said Skoglund, a Paynesville High School physical and health teacher and the head baseball coach for the Bulldogs. "My fear for my dad is what those few seconds must have been like."

His mom's death was tragic, but mercifully quick and pain-

less. His dad's, if he knew what was happening, was horrific. "Those few seconds must have just been terrifying," said Skoglund.

That dream first haunted Skoglund in 2002, in the year following his parent's deaths in June 2001. Then, it recurred last year.

Normally cheery and friendly, with a love for life, like his mom, Skoglund discussed his mental health

struggles because May is Mental Health Month. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one in five adults in the United States will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime.

"The reason to do this is if this can help one person," said Skoglund, who will be inducted into the Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in October. "We

all deal with this in life. It's important to communicate."

2001 Tragedy

Skoglund's older brother Steve, addicted to gambling, had moved home to Willmar due to his gambling debts.

In June 2001, Brad tried to reach his parents for four or five days but never got a call back. He started to worry

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Briefs

Graduation Sunday for Class of 2017

The 75 members of the Class of 2017 at Paynesville High School will graduate on Sunday, May 28, at 2 p.m. in the PHS gymnasium.

Memorial Day to be observed

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 29, with programs in Paynesville and Lake Henry.

The Paynesville American Legion Post #271 will hold a Memorial Day program at 10 a.m. in the Paynesville High School auditorium. Pastor Jim Pritchett of Crystal Hills Assembly will be this year's guest speaker. The high school band will perform, and the local Girls' and Boys' State representatives will attend.

A service will be held in the Paynesville Cemetery following the program, and dinner will be served at the Paynesville American Legion Post #271 from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

A service, led by Father Vincent Lieser, will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, May 29, at the Lake Henry American Legion on Co. Rd. 32. Rich Philabaum will give an address, with dinner at the Legion at 12 noon.

The new veterans memorial at the Paynesville American Legion will be dedicated on Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m., during T&C Days.

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Paynesville Press

211 Washburne Avenue, P.O.

Box 54, Paynesville, MN 56362

Phone: 320-243-3772

Fax: 320-243-4492

www.paynesvillearea.com

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CLASS OF 2017

75 seniors ready to graduate from PHS

Class of 2017
will graduate
75 seniors
on Sunday

By Michael Jacobson

Seventy-five seniors will graduate from Paynesville High School on Sunday, May 28. Commencement will start at 2 p.m. in the gymnasium.

This year's class features 30 honors students, who accumulated a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better during their four years of high school. It also features 20 members of the National Honor Society, who have distinguished themselves through academic, character, and service.

Senior Emily Weidner, also the reigning Miss Paynesville, will graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA this year.

Baccalaureate for the Class of 2017 was held on Sunday, May 21, at Grace United Methodist Church.

Class of 2017 Graduation

75 seniors will graduate from Paynesville High School on Sunday, May 28. The class includes 30 honor students and 20 National Honor Society members.

***Noah Keith Andersen	Nicole Renae Hislop	*Breanna Yvonne Ruchti
Samuel Jonah Bahner	Riley John Hoekstra	Jesse Joe Schaeffer
*Tylor John Bastian	Tyler Owen Hoekstra	Benjamie Bakhodir Scheierl
Andrew Steven Becker	Austin James Imholte	Sarah Ann Schmidt
Megan Marie Beckius	**Amber Coral Johnson	Cameron John Schmitz
Alexa Rose Bengtson	Jordan Riley Johnson	*Nicholas Anthony Schoenherr
*Jacob Ryan Bennett	Madison Ann Johnson	**Katelyn LeeAnn Spanier
Bradley Austin Boelz-Ness	Zachary David Karol	**Tatum June Spanier
**Richelle Lynn Buermann	Lex Gregory Karsch	*Gavin John Stanger
*Lary Justyn Carlson	Logan Michael Kascht	Nicholas William Storkamp
Shane Walter Carlson	Collin Gerald Kern	**Brody Mark Strand
**Katelyn Margaret Dingmann	*Patrick Adam Kranz	*Easton Mark Svvertson
Brandon Robert Douglas	Andrew Lee Larson	McKayla Mary Theisen
**Ashley Jane Eisenbraun	**Garrett William Leusink	Alexis Mae Thielen
**Erika Ruth Feigum	Katelynn Marie Ley	**Breanne Mae Thielen
Paije Lee Fiecke	Dustin Michael Mackedanz	Samuel John Tschumperlin
**Grant Lee Fuchs	*Zachary R. Mackedanz	Garth Raymond Utsch
Nicholas James Gabrielson	Alex Joseph Mages	Caramia Jo Varner
**Allison Nicole Gottwald	**Alyssa Rose Meed	Devin Michael Weber
Brittney Jean Guenther	*Kyle David Miller	Jordan Paul Wegner
April Nichole Hacker	**Rebecca Mae Mogard	**Emily Rose Weidner
Sam George Haines	James Paul Ochs II	*Justin Donald Wendlandt
Eric Jason Hansen	Brooke Katelyn Oveson	Taylor Rose Wessel
Dylan John Heinen	Shannin Marie Peltz	Austin Lee Wirkkula
*Dustin David Hieserich	**Sydney Lauren Riley	*Abbie Lynn Wuertz
*Cum Laude (3.0-3.49 GPA)	**Magna Cum Laude (3.5-3.79)	**Summa Cum Laude (3.8+ GPA)
	National Honor Society	

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Town and Country Days will begin on June 7

Festival will
include, carnival,
parades, and
queen pageant

By Brittany Utsch

With the theme of 'Outside Adventures,' the 2017 Paynesville Town and Country Days will be held from Wednesday, June 7, through Saturday, June 10.

The annual festival will kick off with the annual medallion hunt on Monday, June 5, sponsored by the Paynesville Press.

Starting on Wednesday, June 7, at 12 noon, the carnival will open in downtown Paynesville. Located on James Street and Augusta Street, the carnival will continue through Thursday, June 8, opening at 12 noon again and closing at dusk on both days. Local groups and organizations will open their food fundraiser booths at 11 a.m. both days.

Also on Wednesday, from 12 noon until 1 p.m., members of the community will have the opportunity to meet the Miss Paynesville candidates at Wishin' Well Cafe.

The grand parade will be held on Wednesday evening, beginning at 7 p.m. Allison and Alan Janssen of the Paynesville Community Service Center will serve as grand marshals.

Parade registration is avail-

able at the Chamber of Commerce office on the corner of Washburne Avenue and Business 23 or on the Chamber's website at www.paynesvillechamber.org. The fee is \$25 for non-profits and \$37 for all entries. There is a maximum of two units per entry. The total number of entries is limited to 100 this year. The lineup order will be determined when the entry is received. Details about lineup and a copy of the parade route will be emailed to participants on Monday, June 5.

Advance tickets for the carnival are available at the Central Minnesota Credit Union, the Paynesville Press, and A Little Retail Therapy.

A kiddie 1k race, sponsored by CentraCare Health - Paynesville, will kick off the festivities on Thursday, June 8, with the race starting at 9 a.m. in front of the Koronis Manor Care Center. Following the race, residents at the Koronis Manor will judge the pet show.

In addition to the carnival, other events are planned for Thursday, June 8. A kiddie parade, with registration at 5:30 p.m., will start in the Community Service Center parking lot. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. and finish in time for the kid's tractor pull registration at 6:30 p.m., located downtown on James Street.

Also on Thursday, June 8, the Paynesville Public Library will have lawn games available from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. At dusk, the library will



Themed 'Outside Adventures,' the 2017 Paynesville Town and Country Days will be held from Wednesday, June 7, through Saturday, June 10. The town festival will include a carnival, grand parade, rock and roll band, and pageant.

host a movie on their lawn.

The Paynesville Central Minnesota Credit Union will kick off summer with a cook-out at the Paynesville baseball grandstand from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 9. To finish the day, the Paynesville Fire

Department and the Chamber of Commerce will host a street dance at the grandstand from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Gates open at 7 p.m. at the grandstand with the band "Outside Recess" performing.

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SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

Children 18

and under able to
eat free breakfast
and lunch

School to offer free meals this summer

By Ashley Peck

For the first summer, free breakfast and lunch will be provided to children, 18 and under, at Paynesville Area Elementary School. The meals, provided through a federal USDA program, will be served weekdays, beginning Monday, June 5.

Served by high school head cook Laurie Nepsund and high school cook assistant Katie Welle, breakfast will be offered from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and lunch will be offered from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will start on Monday, June 5, and continue every weekday until Wednesday, Aug. 30.

"We have a lot of things going on here in the summer; we have the Summer PAWS Program here every day, and they'll be utilizing the breakfast and the lunch," said elementary school principal David Oehrlein.

"We'll have on average about 50 kids here for PAWS eating breakfast and lunch," added Community Education director Matt Dickhausen. Although the program was initiated by increasing PAWS participants, meals are open to all children in the community. Adults can also purchase meals at \$2.25 for breakfast and \$3.85 for lunch.

Once the summer menu is finalized, it will be posted to the Paynesville Schools website, as well as the Paynesville Community Education site. "There will also be a form on the sites for, say if you're a daycare provider who would like to bring a big group; you don't have to sign up, but we appreciate a heads up, so we can plan," said Dickhausen.

The Paynesville School District is considered "area eligible" by the USDA for the summer food program, explained district bookkeeper Joan Brogaard. "They used census data, and our school site falls in that area, so we qualify for five years," she explained.

Benefits of the new summer program include providing a nutritious meal to children who may not have one otherwise and offering a safe place to enjoy the meals, which must be eaten at the school. "I think it gives them a

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