



D is for **Doon** New series focuses on community activities starting with same letter — SEE SECTION D

THE
N'WEST
IOWA

REVIEW

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SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

SHELDON, IOWA



"We're so humbled by what everybody's done for us. It's just amazing. We can't thank them enough. It restores your faith in people again."

— DARYL DE GROOT

Volunteer Corn

Farm Rescue comes to rural Hull man's aid, plants 250 acres of corn in first assistance in Iowa

BY DAN BREEN
STAFF WRITER

HULL—Farmer Daryl De Groot would have given an arm and a leg to be out in his field east of Hull this week.

Unfortunately, he does not have a good leg to spare right now.

At a crucial planting time, the 59-year-old is laid up with his right leg in a cast from his ankle to his thigh after twice dealing with staph infections following knee-replacement surgery.

He cannot put any weight on his leg, let alone climb up into a tractor.

Thanks to the nonprofit organization Farm Rescue, the weight's been lifted off his mind. The Jamestown, ND-based organization made sure his 250-acre cornfield got planted Monday through the efforts of volunteer labor.

"We're so humbled by what everybody's done for us. It's just amazing," De Groot said. "We can't thank them enough. It restores your faith in people again."

Farm Rescue was started in 2006

See **RESCUE** on page A9



Daryl and Marla De Groot of rural Hull were the recipients of planting assistance from Farm Rescue. Daryl suffered two staph infections in his right knee and is in a full leg cast. Photos by Dan Breen

HOW IT'S FUNDED:

Farm Rescue is a nonprofit organization that helps farmers who have fallen victim to an injury, illness or natural disaster with planting and harvesting.

The organization is funded through sponsorships, and all the field staff is volunteer labor. Many of the volunteers use their vacation hours or take unpaid leave to assist with Farm Rescue.

"We're really a mobile farming operation," said Faron Wahl, Farm Rescue regional operations manager. "We come in with volunteer staff and sponsored equipment. We're just there to physically do the work then move on to the next case."

The farmers receiving assistance are responsible for paying for all the seed, fuel and fertilizer. It is not an organization that gives free handouts.

Three planting teams have been deployed around a five-state region this spring. For each group, the equipment used has been donated by RDO Equipment Co. of Fargo, ND.

"Farm Rescue has grown beyond what Bill Gross thought could possibility be," Wahl said. "As we continue to help farm families we want to do it in a way where we are providing quality work, and whether we're planting or harvesting, that we're doing a good job."



Dutch Dancers run through the streets during the 73rd Tulip Festival on Thursday afternoon in Orange City. Traditionally in Holland, a dance is held at the beginning of spring for youngsters to expel pent-up energy from winter. Photo by Josh Harrell

First-timer fascinated by Tulip Festival

I admit it, I'd never been to the Orange City Tulip Festival.

But this changed after I stopped by the opening day of the 2013 event on Thursday.

After hearing so much about it, and even writing stories that appeared in *The REVIEW* and *DISCOVER!* about the festival, it seems to be a rite of passage for any N'West Iowan.

I grew up in Aurora, IL, an area where the "V" section of the phone book was one of the relatively smaller portions. The biggest exposure to Dutch culture I'd had prior to moving to N'West Iowa was visiting the Dutch Village theme park in Holland, MI, when I was young, and I hardly remember the trip.



ALLISON SUESSE
STAFF WRITER

See **TULIP FESTIVAL** on page A3

No end in sight for lawmakers

Details remain to be worked out regarding 2013-14 state budget

BY DAN BREEN
STAFF WRITER

DES MOINES—Legislators in Des Moines have agreed on budget parameters, but many details need to be worked out before the 2013 General Session can adjourn.

Per diem expenses ran out on the 110th calendar day of the session, May 3, with the end of the session far from concluded.

Lawmakers are busy trying to hammer out the final details of the budget and other policy issues.

The Republican-controlled Iowa House of Representatives and the Democrats, who have a majority in the Iowa Senate, have agreed on a figure that would increase spending about 3 percent for fiscal

See **DES MOINES** on page A7

High school students build, fire trebuchets

NCC challenges them in engineering event

BY LINDSAY HOEPPNER
STAFF WRITER

SHELDON—Nineteenth century French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte said, "God fights on the side with the best artillery."

If that's the case, a group of students from MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City may be making a spot for God.

Six students from the school proved victorious Monday in their semesterlong quest of building and testing trebuchets, a catapult that works by using the energy of a raised counterweight to throw a projectile.

The teens put their trebuchet to the test at the inaugural Northwest Iowa Community College Engineering Expo in Sheldon.

MOC-Floyd Valley came in first. See **TREBUCHETS** on A9



Sheldon High School senior Will De Kok asks for an egg to launch from his team's trebuchet during the Northwest Iowa Community College's Engineering Expo in Sheldon. Photo by Josh Harrell

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WEEKEND WEATHER:

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
HIGH: 86		HIGH: 80	
LOW: 65		LOW: 59	
CHANCE OF PREC: 0%/70%		CHANCE OF PREC: 60%/70%	

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REVIEW/SHELDON, IA A9

A7-BRIEFLY

NEWS

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RESCUE

Continued from page A1

as an organization to assist farmers who have encountered injury, illness or natural disasters. Founder Bill Gross of North Dakota has a farming background but is a pilot with UPS. He saw the need for an organization to assist individuals with uncommon circumstances.

“When farm families have a major crisis, more and more frequently, there are not enough farms nearby or enough people to be able to spread out like they used to provide that step-in assistance,” said Faron Wahl, Sioux Falls, SD, regional operations manager with Farm Rescue.

Farm Rescue has grown each year since 2006. It assisted its 200th case last fall. The group is on track to help 30 farmers with planting this spring and another 15 with harvests in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The De Groot were Farm Rescue’s first case in Iowa.

“Almost half of our applications come about not because the farm family applied, but because a neighbor or friend sees a need and contacts us,” Wahl said.

While De Groot knew about the Farm Rescue organization, he said he probably would not have reached out for assistance had it not been for the suggestion of his friend, Dan Bonnema, who works for KSOU Radio in Sioux Center.

De Groot had knee-replacement surgery in February 2012, but developed his first staph infection shortly thereafter. He was on antibiotics for about a year, and he thought the infection had been eliminated.

However, the pain came back March 10.

“I got up in the middle of the night, and I couldn’t walk,”

De Groot said. “It was excruciating pain. That knee cap had gone to the side, and the muscle had split.”

Body Copy

Doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, took his artificial knee out and put spacers in as they tried to control the reoccurring infection. They also placed his entire leg in a cast. The cast has to be on for 10 weeks.

Body Copy

If all goes as planned and the infection has gone away, De Groot will have a second knee-replacement surgery on May 29.

Body Copy

While Farm Rescue is not a religious organization due to the corporate sponsorships it receives, Farm Rescue volunteer Levi Wielenga of Sioux City sees it as a ministry outreach.

Body Copy

He took on the task of manning the pilot’s seat in the John Deere tractor as the seeds and insecticide went into the De Groots’ field Monday on the south side of Highway 18, a mile and a half east of Hull.

Body Copy

“Farm Rescue’s a perfect fit. I get to serve God, serve others and I get to farm,” said Wielenga, a Middleburg native who now works full time for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway as an engineer.

Body Copy

BNSF allows him time off to assist in what he calls “community service.”

Body Copy

About three years ago he saw an advertisement for Farm Rescue in a magazine and knew he wanted to get involved.

Body Copy

“I just love it,” Wielenga said.

Body Copy

While De Groot might prefer being out in the field himself, he is appreciative of the help.

Body Copy

“You have to swallow your pride and let them do it. That’s just the way it is,” he said.

Body Copy

His wife, Marla, 58, said Farm Rescue has been a blessing for their family.

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“We’re just so grateful. It’s overwhelming,” she said. “It takes such a burden off the worry of how this is all going to get done.”

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TREBUCHETS

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Continued from page A1

at the competition. Eight teams from seven schools participated.

The event originally was scheduled for April 24 but was postponed twice due to inclement weather.

“I told everyone that if we had bad weather again today, we are going to be done with it, but it’s so rewarding to see them here competing,” said Steve Waldstein, NCC’s dean of applied technology.

About four months ago, Waldstein sent e-mails to area high school science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers, informing them of the competition that would involve building a trebuchet and launching raw eggs.

Several area high school educators told their students about the opportunity, which was designed with a quadruple purpose: To promote engineering as an exciting field for young people, provide a service to society, encourage teamwork and assist in education outside the classroom.

The challenge began with each team presenting posters that included calculations of predicted distances, documentation of the design process and a list of materials used, which accounted for 50 of the competition’s 100 possible points.

The second half had each team competing on a level, rectangular field outside Building A at NCC.

The teams chose if they were going to launch from 120, 90 or 60 feet back from the 4-inch circular bull’s-eye target on an 8-by-8-inch platform inclined at a 45-degree angle. If the students chose to launch from 120 feet, they had to draw a card that instructed them if they would have to add 5 feet, subtract 5 feet or do nothing when they set up their catapults in the designated launch area. Groups that directly hit the bull’s-eye from 120 feet received 50 points, while 90 feet was worth 40 points and 60 was worth 30.

“It’s more about the engineering aspect, the adjustability part, because it’s a windy day,” Waldstein said. “The longer it’s in the air, the more the wind will play a factor, so it will be interesting to see which groups come into play.

Body Copy

Subhead

MOC-Floyd Valley

Body Copy

Sophomore Dalton Pottebaum led MOC-Floyd Valley's team of juniors Alex Drilling, Aaron Dykstra and Tanner Krull and sophomores Chris Ringelberg and Riley Jeltema.

Body Copy

The group all expressed interest after Ben Montgomery, their principles of engineering teacher, notified them of the competition.

Body Copy

"A trebuchet just seemed like a really cool thing to have after you make it," Pottebaum said. He plans to keep the winning catapult.

Body Copy

Ringelberg thought up the basic design of his team's more than 14-foot tall wooden masterpiece by watching catapult design videos on YouTube.

Body Copy

The group made sure to test the creation after it was built, and it was successful in hitting the 110-foot range. Before the launch, the students were pretty confident about their decision to aim from a 120-foot distance.

Body Copy

"Go big or go home," Pottebaum said. "That's our team motto."

Body Copy

Subhead

South O'Brien

Body Copy

South O'Brien's trebuchet-crafting team was comprised of seniors Sara Wester, Dillon Hain, Colten Huckaby, Emily Riedeman, Daniel Patterson, Ethan Schwebach, Rebecca Thiel and Daniel Haden and junior Kelly Puhmann.

Body Copy

The group perused YouTube videos for general design ideas, then began building small catapult models using K'Nex construction toys before constructing the 5-foot design named Chuck. The students performed practice launches in the snow in the weeks leading up to the competition and proved to be pretty consistent in their distance patterns.

Body Copy

"As we added more weight, we went a farther distance, and we added a sling, which has helped a lot," Wester said.

Body Copy

Subhead

Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn

Body Copy

Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn's group of seniors Evan Thorn,

Logan Remmers, Eric Bernier and Emily Elgersma and junior Tye Haag found design ideas through YouTube videos that they then crafted into their own.

“We kind of made up the design as we went,” Haag said.

The 4-foot tall catapult had been consistently successful with 120-foot practice launches leading up to the competition, so they planned on launching from the farthest distance.

Sheldon

Sheldon High School science teacher Kris Groff told his students about the engineering expo.

“I was interested,” said senior Danny Linggonegoro. “It seemed like something unique and different.”

Linggonegoro, along with seniors Hannah Hickman, Alex Vust and Scott Stallmann and junior Sean Manasil, was on Sheldon Team 2. The school’s other team was made up of seniors Grant Weaver, Peter Fonkert, Sung Ju Kim, Jake Rosburg, Will De Kok and Toby Maggert.

Each of Sheldon’s teams began preparing for the competition by researching trebuchet designs on the Internet. Google searches and YouTube videos proved to lead to design inspiration for each team.

Linggonegoro’s team went a step above and used an online simulator that gave the students the exact dimensions they should use. The group began building their 4-foot tall instrument and through trial and error consistently began launching the eggs about 126 feet. Sheldon’s other team opted for a smaller design about 2½-feet tall.

“We did a lot of practice runs, and were very consistent at 60 feet, so I think that’s what we’re going to shoot for,” Maggert said. “That’s what we’ll be able to hit.”

Sioux Center

Sioux Center’s “Eggsecutioner” was built by seniors Glenna Duden, James Hooyer, Josh Olvera and Siddharth Chabaul, but only Duden and Hooyer were able to attend the engineering competition.

Body Copy

The group formed after Duden, who takes college-credit classes at NCC, saw an advertisement promoting the challenge on the NCC website.

Body Copy

“I asked around to see if anyone was interested,” she said.

Body Copy

The four students shared the same interest as they each plan to pursue engineering in college.

Body Copy

The challenge, however, was not the students’ interest, it was finding time for them to all get together to finalize design plans.

Body Copy

“It was a really time-consuming process,” Duden said, but the team went with a design similar to one she gleaned from a “punkin chuckin” competition. “What better way than to start there? It seemed like an intriguing and different idea.”

Body Copy

Their about 2-foot-tall catapult proved to be the tiniest of the competition.

Body Copy

“It’s hard to believe we have to follow safety requirements when we launch; we have to wear hard hats and safety glasses, and we just have this tiny little trebuchet, but when I look over there at that behemoth, I can understand why,” Duden said, pointing to MOC-Floyd Valley’s creation.

▼ A7-BRIEFLY

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LAW

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▼ #CT# - 1: Contest promotes engineering through...

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Contest promotes engineering through building trebuchets

▼ #CT# - 1: South O'Brien High School senior...

Cutline

South O’Brien High School senior Rebecca Thiel prepares to launch her team’s trebuchet Monday at the Northwest Iowa Community College’s Engineering Expo in Sheldon. The team placed second. Photo by Josh Harrell

▼ #CT# - 1: 1. MOC-Floyd Valley47.52. South...

pullout nor...

1. MOC-Floyd Valley 47.5

pullout nor...

2. South O’Brien 45.9

pullout nor...

3. Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn 44.5

pullout nor...

4. Sheldon Team 2 44

pullout nor...

5. Sioux Center 43.1

pullout nor...

6. Sheldon Team 1 39.2

pullout nor... 7. Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 27.7

pullout nor... 8. Remsen-Union 24.1

pullout nor...

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Pullout He...

Judges at Northwest Iowa Community College’s inaugural Engineering Expo in Sheldon on Monday were:

pullout nor... ■ Scott Abbott, business and industry consultant/trainer at NCC;

pullout nor... ■ Jason Anderson, director of economic development and workforce training at NCC;

pullout nor... ■ James Fitzgerald, fifth-grade teacher at Sheldon Middle School;

pullout nor... ■ Brian Busch, manufacturing technology instructor and business and industry trainer at NCC;

pullout nor... ■ Ryan Steffen, design technology instructor at NCC.

▼ #CT# - 1:

Normal

▼ #CT# - 1: RESULTS:

RESULTS:

At a glance...

▼ #CT# - 1:

Normal

▼ #CT# - 1: EVENT JUDGES:

EVENT JUDGES:

At a glance...

▼ #CT# - 1: Laid-up farmer appreciates assistance

Laid-up farmer appreciates assistance

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▼ #CT# - 1: Middleburg native Levi Wielenga...

Cutline Middleburg native Levi Wielenga operates a John Deere tractor and planter as he volunteers for Farm Rescue near Hull on Monday. Farm Rescue helps farmers who have suffered an injury, illness or natural disaster with their planting and harvesting.

▼ #CT# - 1: Levi Wielenga of Sioux City, a...

Cutline Levi Wielenga of Sioux City, a volunteer for Farm Rescue, plants corn in Daryl De Groot’s 250-acre field a mile and a half east of Hull on Monday. Farm Rescue, based in North Dakota, helps farmers who have fallen upon hard times with volunteer planting and harvesting. De Groot suffered two staph infections in his right knee and is in a full leg cast.

Photos by Dan Breen

Pullout Head

TO GET INVOLVED:

Pullout No...

■ Are you interested in volunteering with Farm Rescue during either planting or harvest time? Do you know someone who might benefit from the organization's services? Visit the Farm Rescue website at www.farmrescue.org and click on the tabs to apply or volunteer.

Brief Head

ONE INJURED IN CRASH

Brief Body

PAULLINA—One person was injured in a one-vehicle accident at about 8:15 p.m. Saturday, May 4, on Highway 10 four miles west of Paullina. Shay Christine Lund, 15, Paullina, was driving east when her 2006 Grand Prix traveled across the centerline and over onto the opposite shoulder. Lund then overcorrected and lost control while still traveling down the opposite side of the highway. The vehicle then entered the north ditch and continued about 300 feet before striking a tree, according to the O'Brien County Sheriff's Department. A passenger, Brenda Lund, 42, Shay's mother, was transported to Orange City Area Health System. No other injuries were reported. Shay Lund was cited for failure to maintain control of her vehicle.

Brief Head

Brief Head

HIT-AND-RUN ARREST

Brief Body

HOSPERS—The Sioux County Sheriff's Department reported the arrest of Jose De Jesus Llano-Hernandez, 18, Hospers, for driving without a valid driver's license, leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident, failure to maintain control and no insurance at about 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at his residence. The arrest was a result of an investigation following a hit-and-run accident on Monday, May 6, at Farmers Cooperative in Hospers. A grain auger, resulting in about \$1,000 damage.

Brief Body

Brief Head

DRIVER FACES CHARGES

Brief Body

HULL—The Sioux County Sheriff's Department reported the arrest of Scott Van Lo, 50, Hull, at about 7:25 p.m. Saturday, May 11, following an investigation into

vehicular accident on Highway 18, three miles west of Hull. Van Lo was driving east when he lost control of his 2002 Mercury Mountaineer. The vehicle entered the south ditch and struck a MidAmerican Energy utility pole. No injuries were reported, but Van Lo was charged with operating while intoxicated, open container, failure to maintain control and no insurance.

Brief Body

TEEN CITED FOR ASSAULT

Brief Head

SIBLEY — The Osceola County Sheriff's Department reported the arrest Thressa Joan Weishuhn, 18, Sibley, on Wednesday, May 15, for assaulting a 20-year-old female at Central Park in Sibley. She was booked into the county jail in Sibley and later released on a \$300 recognizance bond.

Brief Body

Brief Body

PICNIC TABLE STOLEN

Brief Head

HOSPERS — The Sioux County Sheriff's Department investigated a report of theft thought to have occurred sometime Monday-Tuesday, May 13-14. Someone stole a burgundy colored Landscape brand picnic table that was placed on the west side of the Modern Woodmen Insurance building on Main Street in Hospers. The table, valued at about \$500, is round, has four attached bench seats and is plastic and rubber coated. Anyone with information is asked to call (712) 737-2280 or e-mail sheriff@siouxcounty.org.

Brief Body