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Minot Daily News

AUGUST 23, 2015

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

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Eloise Ogden/MDN

Dan Murphy, Farm Rescue volunteer, unloads grain from Tom Bjornholt's field into a truck Friday.

Helping with harvest

Garrison farmer Tom Bjornholt, right, who was injured in a June farm accident, visits with Dan Murphy, a Farm Rescue volunteer from El Lago, Texas, Friday, where family members, neighbors, Farm Rescue and others have been helping harvest Bjornholt's crop.

Eloise Ogden/MDN



Family, neighbors, Farm Rescue, others help Garrison farmer

By ELOISE OGDEN
Regional Editor
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GARRISON – When Garrison farmer Tom Bjornholt, who was injured in a farm accident, needed help harvesting his wheat, family members, neighbors, businesses and many others along with Farm Rescue volunteers pitched in to help. Some helped with the harvest and others with feeding the volunteers and any other needs.

On Friday, Bjornholt said the crop – somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000 acres – anticipated it would be done that night. The crew began working on it Tuesday.

Bjornholt, who lives northwest of Garrison, was injured about two months ago. He got pinched by the loader bucket on a skid-steer. "I disengaged my brain for 10 seconds. That's basically what happened," he said.

See RESCUE — Page A2

Annual Festival on Main moved indoors to Auditorium

By JILL HAMBEK
Staff Writer

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While the annual Festival on Main was not its usual frenzy of fun in the heart of downtown Minot this year, there was plenty of fun to be had across town at the Minot City Auditorium where the Festival on Main was relocated due to rainy weather on Saturday.

The Minot Downtown Business and Professional Association hosted its annual Festival on Main, a staple of downtown Minot for over 30 years. The event offered free activities and entertainment for all ages from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a street dance for adults with paid entry from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Both the festival and street dance were held indoors at the auditorium.

Children and families enjoyed carnival games, giant inflatables, face painting, Dizzy the Clown and live entertainment throughout the day. Several vendors from downtown Minot had booths displaying their merchandise and special sales as



Dizzy the Clown was on hand at the Festival on Main, held indoors due to rain, to twist and shape balloons into animals and swords.

Jill Hambek/MDN

well. "We couldn't bring all of the downtown businesses here and we couldn't bring the full display of classic cars," said Chelsea Gleich, executive director of the DBPA, but people could still

vote for their favorite classic car among three that were on display.

That evening, people in the 21 and over age range were invited back to the auditorium for the indoor

street dance. Guy and a Girl played at 7 p.m. and Soulshine played at 9 p.m.

Food and beer were also available for sale. People who participated in the Illumi Night 5K Fun Run

and wore their bib from the race were admitted for half price of the \$10 regular admission fee.

Even though the festival was at the auditorium, shuttle service was still available

to take people downtown throughout the day.

This was Gleich's first Festival on Main. She was most looking forward to seeing the little kids having a great time, she said. "This is the longest running downtown event and a staple to the community," Gleich added. The festival is also a great way to bring people to downtown Minot, she said. Gleich was also thankful to the event's sponsors, Morelli's Distributing and Visit Minot, as well as to all of the volunteers.

"Festival on Main is a great community event to bring the community together," Gleich said. And if downtown businesses missed showcasing their merchandise at this festival, she said there will be another opportunity to do so at the Fall Block Party on Sept. 19. The Fall Block Party is a smaller version of Festival on Main and held on the same day as the Minot State University homecoming parade.

"We encourage everyone to come downtown," Gleich added.

For current weather conditions: www.MinotDailyNews.com

Weather



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Adventures

Avoid the deadly algae
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Happy Birthday
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Indiana team that raided Fogle's home used mobile laboratory

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — When they arrived at Jared Fogle's home last month, law enforcement officials were armed with more than a search warrant: They rolled up with a mobile forensics laboratory that has revolutionized how Indiana investigates child-exploitation and pornography crimes and helped make the state a national model.

While one investigator questioned the longtime Subway pitchman in one of the vehicle's two rooms, others watched the interview unfold on a screen in another room. At the same time, authorities searched computers, mobile devices and other media recovered from the suburban Indianapolis home.

The custom-built lab allows investigators to feed real-time questions to interviewees based on what they find or what is missing. It also lets them preview data before computers or devices are shut off or erased. It helps identify other devices to look for inside the home. And it saves days, weeks or months of time compared with the old method of copying their contents.

Indianapolis police detective Darin Odier said it's imperative that authorities develop new tools to keep up with changing technology, like the way that some people are using streaming video to show sex-

ual abuse rather than storing the footage.

"Just when we think we have some idea of what's going on, the bad guys change the game," Odier said.

But the lab is not the only reason the central Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children task force is widely considered the nation's best. The group that includes local, state and federal agencies has also perfected a method of following cyber trails to find offenders and victims in other states and countries.

They use every available tool — from dogs that sniff out small devices (a dog found a thumb drive in Fogle's home that investigators overlooked) to a new forensics technique of disassembling cell-phones that someone has tried to destroy to recover binary data. A team of 15 to 20 people is deployed for each search.

Perhaps most important, though, is a rare interagency cooperation, where turf wars and egos simply don't exist when it comes to child exploitation, said Francey Hakes, a former special assistant to the U.S. attorney general overseeing Justice Department child-exploitation units.

"There is no fighting for credit. There is just so much dedication to

finding and rescuing these kids," said Hakes, who now runs an Atlanta consulting firm that advises police on child exploitation.

Fogle on Wednesday agreed to plead guilty to allegations that he paid for sex with girls as young as 16 and received child pornography in a case that could send him to prison for more than a decade.

Court documents allege that Fogle on multiple occasions received sexually explicit images and videos produced by Russell Taylor, who ran the charitable Jared Foundation and whose house was raided by the task force two months before Fogle's. Investigators said they discovered a cache of sexually explicit photos and videos Taylor allegedly produced by secretly filming minor children at his home. That investigation led to Fogle.

Based on her experience, Hakes said, the task force is probably still examining digital media recovered from both men to determine who they were communicating with and which websites they visited or private groups they might have belonged to, among other questions.

"I call it a spider-web investigation," she said. "I guarantee you there will be spinoff investigations across the country and maybe across the world. They are a complete and total leader in that field."

Pope joins faithful in the pews in St. Peter's Basilica

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis, who encourages prelates to get closer to rank-and-file Catholics, has practiced what he preaches, taking a place early among surprised faithful in a front-row pew in St. Peter's Basilica for Mass.

The pope's presence at an early morning Mass a day earlier was completely impromptu, a Vatican spokesman said Saturday.

The spokesman, the Rev. Ciro Benedettini, said the Mass was celebrated Friday at an altar, near the entrance of the basilica and

dedicated to St. Pope Pius X. When it was time to receive Communion, Benedettini said, the pope lined up along with the other faithful.

Francis arrived in the basilica without an escort and unannounced to pray, then stayed for Mass, Benedettini said.

Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said some 70 people were attending Mass when it began. When others in the basilica noticed the pope, attendance grew, the paper said, without saying just how many.

Man faces obscenity charge after O'Donnell's daughter found

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP) — The owner of the home where Rosie O'Donnell's missing teen daughter was found earlier this week has been arrested for allegedly having inappropriate online communications with the 17-year-old girl, according to authorities and the star's spokeswoman.

Steven Sheerer faces charges of child endangerment and distribution of obscenity to a minor, authorities said Saturday.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office declined to identify the victim, citing her age. But a spokeswoman for O'Donnell said the case involves the star's daughter, Chelsea.

"He was involved with a minor, and Rosie's concern has been and always will be the health, safety and well-being of her daughter," Cindi Berger told The Associated Press. "Rosie is profoundly appreciative for the work the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has done and the diligence of the local police."

Sheerer, 25, was arrested Friday night at his home in Barnegat, police said. Chelsea O'Donnell had been found at the home Tuesday, hours after her mother posted a statement online saying the girl had left home on Aug. 11.

Authorities have said police

went to the home and the person answering the door initially did not want to reveal Chelsea's presence. Police said they told the occupant they would not leave until she came out; she then appeared and willingly left with police.

Sheerer's arrest came several hours after authorities had obtained the girl's cellphone with her mother's consent, prosecutors said. They allegedly found "inappropriate communications" that had occurred over the last several weeks between Sheerer and the minor.

Authorities seized a computer and other digital equipment at Sheerer's home when they executed a search warrant, but did not disclose further details.

It was not known Saturday if Sheerer had retained an attorney and a telephone number for him could not be located. His bail was set at \$40,000 cash, and he faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted, authorities said.

Sheerer will likely be arraigned sometime next week, but a court date has not yet been scheduled, prosecutors said.

Court records show Sheerer pleaded guilty to drug offenses in separate cases in 2012 and 2013. In each case, he was sentenced to two years of probation.

Tragedy averted by train passengers who disarmed gunman

PARIS (AP) — A series of heroic actions by passengers thwarted an attack by a man with ties to radical Islam who boarded a high-speed train from Amsterdam to Paris armed with a Kalashnikov, a pistol and a box cutter, officials said Saturday as more details emerged about the dramatic incident that ended with three people injured but no one killed.

The attacker, identified by a French official close to the investigation as Ayoub El-Khazzani, 26, was on the radar of authorities in France, Belgium and Spain. The official spoke on condition of

anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Officials did not disclose a possible motive for the Friday attack, but Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Spanish authorities had advised French intelligence about El-Khazzani because he belongs to the "radical Islamist movement."

As the train passed through Belgium, a French citizen trying to use the toilet encountered and tried to subdue the gunman, who had the assault rifle strapped across his shoulder, Cazeneuve said. Bullets started flying and two American servicemen, with help from an

American friend and a Briton, tackled and disarmed him.

"Without their sangfroid we could have been confronted with a terrible drama," Cazeneuve said.

The Briton, businessman Chris Norman, said he was working on his computer when he heard a shot and glass breaking and saw a train worker running. The servicemen — U.S. Airman Spencer Stone and Alek Skarlatos, a National Guardsman from Roseburg, Oregon — and their friend, Anthony Sadler, a senior at Sacramento State University in California, heard glass breaking at the same time.

Rescue

Continued from Page A1

The accident happened June 8 on the Bjornholt farm.

"It was at 2:19 in the afternoon," he said. He said he knows it was that time because later when he was asked when it happened, he remembered opening up his phone to call his neighbor for help and his phone said 2:19. Bjornholt was taken to the Garrison hospital.

Bjornholt has been ordered to stay off his right leg and ankle. He hopes in the next couple weeks he will be able to start putting weight on it.

Bjornholt's accident wasn't the only unfortunate incident. This summer his crops were hit with hail — some totally destroyed while others not hit at all — and also a storm with high winds swept through the area and knocked down some of the crops.

To harvest Bjornholt's crop or assist with that operation, many people came together to help, including Farm Rescue, the North Dakota-based organization founded by Bill Gross that helps farm families in crisis by assisting with their spring work or harvest. Gross, a native North Dakotan, founded the organization in 2005. Gross, whose full-time job is as a pilot for UPS Airlines, said Bjornholt is Farm Rescue's 331st case since the organization began. He said many sponsors, including ones in the Minot area, help the organization.

Bjornholt said he knew about Farm Rescue. When he was in the hospital, he said a nursing staff member brought him a Farm Rescue application and said it might be something he might want to look at. "At the time I didn't want to recognize the fact that I maybe needed it," he said.

He said his wife, Jodie, and daughters encouraged him to apply. He was interviewed by Farm Rescue representatives and approved.

When it was time to harvest the crop, neighbors, family members and Farm Rescue arrived to get the job done this past week. They started to cut the wheat Tuesday. Businesses and others also helped or contributed to the operation.

Dan Murphy, a Farm Rescue volunteer from El Lago, Texas, was helping with the harvest on Friday, running the Farm Rescue RDO Equipment-sponsored John Deere combine.

"My family comes from a farming background," Murphy said. Many of them farm in western Minnesota.

Murphy said he learned about Farm Rescue when he was sitting reading the paper while in Graceville, Minn., and saw an article about it. He kept the article and gave the organization a call the next year. "And here I am," he said. He visits Minnesota regularly to help his relatives on their farms.

Murphy said his first Farm Rescue harvest was at Pettibone, then Richardton and Garrison. He has dedi-

cated a month to helping the organization.

In Texas, Murphy is in quality assurance and compliance for the pipeline industry, working for Wolf Creek Energy.

"This is really neat. There's no words for it," Murphy said of Farm Rescue, adding, "I'm so blessed, I've got to pay it back."



90th Birthday Celebration for Clarence Cogdill

Join us for an Open House in his honor on Friday, August 28 from 4 until 7 p.m. at the Burlington Senior Center, 19 Colton Avenue. (no gifts please)

Bjornholt said everything that has happened has been overwhelming, and he and his family are so thankful to the community, Farm Rescue

— to everyone.

For more about Farm Rescue visit FarmRescue.org.

The organization will hold its annual banquet Nov. 21 in Fargo.

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