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Lockmon wins photo contest

■ More than 200 share talents in ANR's annual amateur competition

by Kurt Johnson

Kady Lockmon looked up at the sky last summer at her grandparents' farm near Stuart and was captivated by the combination of light and billowing clouds. With an old barn in the foreground, she saw an image in her mind's eye and wanted to capture it on camera.

That image was selected as the grand prize winner in this year's Aurora News-Register amateur photo contest, earning Lockmon a \$100 grand prize.

"I thought the clouds were beautiful that day," she recalled. "My feeling was that it was something I had never seen before and I wanted to share it. I had friends who begged me to enter this contest and I just can't believe it was chosen as a winner."

This was Lockmon's first-ever entry into a photo contest, though she said she was bitten by the photography bug long ago.

"I actually started taking photos with my cell phone and people started liking it," she said. "A few years ago I got a DSLR camera (a Canon Rebel) and so now I'm interested in photography as more of a hobby."

Lockmon, who grew up in Aurora and graduated from Giltner High School, said she carries her camera with her in the car most of the time. She estimated that she takes 1,000 photos or more a month focused on a variety of subjects.

"I do scenic and I do animals," she explained. "My grandpa has a horse business so we have a lot of horses on the farm and I take a lot of pictures of them."

On that day last summer there was a big storm at the farm, and soon after the sky had a pinkish hue that cast what she thought was an interesting light on the landscape.

"All of a sudden I saw these weird-looking clouds," she recalled. "I liked how our barn was sitting just perfectly. For editing I kind of wanted to lighten up the clouds to help them stand out."

And it did, in the judges' eyes, earning Lockmon top honors in the nature category and the grand champion prize from a field of more than 200 entries.

Stevens wins ag category

Tiffany Stevens of Aurora was another first place winner, earning top honors in the ag division with a unique photo taken near her family's farm in rural Ceresco.

"Every year my family hosts a tractor engine show so I took my son and his friends," she recalled. "We walked around the property along the irrigation ditch and I

(See PHOTOS, A8)



Photo by Kady Lockmon
Kady Lockmon captured this scenic image on her grandparents' farm near Stuart, which judges picked as the top nature photo, as well as the overall grand champion.



Photo by Tiffany Stevens
Tiffany Stevens took a walk near her family's farm in rural Ceresco where she took this photo, which was selected as the top ag entry in the News-Register's amateur photo contest. See more winning photos on page C1 and a highlight video of more entries on ANR social media or auroranews-register.com

County's focus remains on roads

■ Use of drags, personnel the topic of conversation at Monday meeting

by Cheyenne Rowe

Following up on comments shared earlier this month, Stacy and Stephanie Holloway spoke at the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday with friend Dwayne Katt, to discuss changes they would like to see to equipment and personnel at the county highway department.

"Well let's start off with equipment," Stacy began. "Rich and I, we had a 30-minute conversation about a lot of stuff a while back. Did you share it with the board?"

Chairman Rich Nelson stated that he shared some, but not all, of the conversation with fellow board members.

"In regards to the equipment, our conversation, we discussed drags, correct?" Holloway asked again. Nelson confirmed.

Holloway reiterated a statement Nelson had made to him concerning how Caterpillar and John Deere do not make drags. He also stated that Nelson asked him what he would do if John Deere didn't make a piece of equipment he used. He then brought up that the snowplows the county uses are not Caterpillar or John Deere, in an effort to help "set the stage."

"Let's get down to it then, Stacy, we can discuss all day," Nelson said.

Holloway continued, stating that he had done a bit of homework on behalf of the commissioners. He had talked to individuals in Howard County about what they were doing to improve their road conditions.

"The terrain is pretty similar, the miles are pretty similar to what we have," he said. "Basically, they're pulling a drag. They've tried it without a drag -- doesn't

(See ROADS, A5)

Vetter's organic vision shared with local audience

■ Documentary draws crowd of 100

by Kurt Johnson

The story of a Marquette family's pioneering organic farming mission hit the big screen in Aurora Sunday with the first-ever local showing of a 77-minute documentary titled "Dreaming of a Vetter World."

David Vetter has of course seen the film which depicts his life and life's work many times, but admitted that it was a bit different watching it with a hometown audience.

"When you do something like that you always wonder how it's going to be perceived locally because generally the perceptions are different than in other locations," Vetter said. "But outside of some of the questions, the overall comments were very similar to what we've gotten in screenings in other parts of the country."

Producer Bonnie Hawthorne was not in attendance Sunday, but reported from her home in California that reaction to the film, in her view, has exceeded expectations.

"I have absolutely seen changes in people's views because they've seen the film and because general awareness these days is different about a lot of things," Hawthorne said.

Citing recent flooding throughout Nebraska and the

(See VETTER, A8)

Keeley Allen granted wish to discover the magic of Atlantis

■ Young Auroran's Make A Wish approved

by Cheyenne Rowe

What started as a regular boys baseball game held many more surprises for an unassuming spectator on July 9.

Keeley Allen, whose brother

sat behind home plate and whose father coached from a baseline was about to be thrown into the midst of a play call, centered around her.

A scheme planned out before the young Auroran arrived was

put into motion as a timeout was called on the diamond. Fans, all adorned in summer-themed Hawaiian leis and floral shirts of different sorts, watched eagerly from the crowd -- everyone but Keeley was aware of what was to go down on the diamond.

Tasked with delivering a game ball to her dad at home plate,

Keeley walked out onto the dirt and was unaware of the unraveling banner at the pitchers mound and the oncoming Make A Wish volunteers dressed in blue, followed by her mother, carrying a decree and cookie that would change her almost 18-year-old life forever.

"When I contacted Suzanne

(Allen), we picked out a day and we were just going to go to the house," Make A Wish wish granter Sherri Probasco said.

"Then I said, 'Well, we can do it anywhere.' So we decided, oh let's do the ball field because her brother has a game that night."

Probasco added that a good friend of Suzanne's reached out

with the perfect idea for a reveal.

"Which is what we ended up doing, where they called the timeout and all of that," she said.

Even the opposing team had been contacted and knew all about the plan -- which they were excited to be part of.

(See WISH, A6)



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