



MAXIMILLIAN LISOWSKI | TIMES HERALD

Jalisco Mexican Restaurant was lined with bikes last Monday as riders looked for a place to eat.

RAGBRAI

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goers eager to see the RAGBRAI documentary "Shift" and other recently released blockbusters.

Kim Daniel, the Carroll 5 manager, said that they received plenty of business on July 24. Between new films and the exclusive showing of the RAGBRAI documentary, many riders spent a few hours relaxing while watching the big screen.

Speaking of the documentary compared to other films, Daniel said, "There were significantly more people that saw the RAGBRAI movie."

After an evening showing of the documentary there was a Q&A session at 6:40 p.m. for people to meet with Torie Jennings Giffin, Adam Lineberry and Dayna Chandler — all characters in the film. Daniel said that it was a big hit, but the main draw was due to the characters that were in town.

"Other than that show, not a lot of people went to it," Daniel said.

According to Chris Cuellar, the communications director for the Iowa High School Athletic Association, the total number of paid attendance at Merchants Park was 7,486 people.

In comparison to last year, this year's total number of attendees was slightly decreased, with the 2022 total attendance being 7,499. In 2021, the number was 6,235.

Similar to last year, Alex Roiland, the general manager of the Carrollton Inn, said four baseball teams stayed at the hotel.

During the weeks of State Baseball Tournament, Roiland said their rates increased nearly 40 percent over their average week in the summer.

"I think it's awesome," Roiland said of State Base-

ball in Carroll. "They fill up all the hotels in town basically for the whole week."

As RAGBRAI came through Carroll, Roiland, said there was a huge increase in room reservations. Having an almost 100 percent increase over their average, Roiland said most of the rooms were reserved by state troopers and RAGBRAI staff members.

"RAGBRAI was great, the people that we had were super respectful," Roiland said.

With the hotel having a park nearby for cyclists to camp, Roiland said he was pleasantly surprised to see how smoothly they picked up their items and moved out. "They didn't leave a speck of garbage down there," Roiland said.

The Carroll Booster Club and Kuemper Booster Club were present during the State Baseball Tournament, with students helping sell concessions items.

Randy Bissen, the activities director for the Carroll Community School District, said all the money raised at the concession stand goes toward activities, including sports, band, choir, drama, after-prom and more.

At the Carroll High School last Monday, volunteers with the Carroll High School Foundation helped serve lasagna meals to RAGBRAI cyclists. Volunteers also collected money from cyclists renting out showers and towels.

Similarly, Parks and Recreation Director Chad Tiemeyer said Kuemper Catholic opened its doors for showers and food to the south side campgrounds.

Additionally, a riding team of 80 riders with disabilities camped and stored their bikes inside the Kuemper Fieldhouse, Tiemeyer said.

"Both schools went above and beyond what we could have asked from community partners," Tiemeyer said.

On the night of the stop, the RAGBRAI committee announced the recipients of RAGBRAI'S Community Foundation donation. The recipients included the Carroll High School Foundation/Carroll Tiger Booster Club, the Kuemper High School Foundation and the American Legion.

By receiving extra support, Bissen said, it was thoughtful of the RAGBRAI committee to donate a portion of the money back toward the local schools.

"All the money goes right back to the school and right back to the kids, so that's what it's all about," Bissen said.

Wendy Johnson, the Carroll Public Library director, said many cyclists stopped inside the library to rest and charge their phones.

During their visit, Johnson said, many cyclists left messages on the glass of the Makerspace, complimenting the people of Carroll, the beauty of the library, and the accomanations from the library staff.

"Having so many riders from all over the United States and from other countries was amazing to see," Johnson said. "Almost every rider that came into the library told us what a beautiful space we have and thanked us for being open."

Within those 10 days, Mayor Mark Beardmore said he had a great time throughout both events.

"All of these events just filled my bucket," Beardmore said.

Johnson said these events give an opportunity for Carroll to show visitors what the city has to offer.

"Large events like State Baseball and RAGBRAI also give our community a chance to come together and work toward a common goal, which makes us stronger," Johnson said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Meredith Parrott holding her painting of a flamingo.

PARROTT

FROM PAGE 1

proceeded to put each feather on the wall, making them look like wings.

"It's kind of difficult to find a project that anyone can do, but I would say that I did a pretty good job at doing that," Meredith said.

Overall, Meredith said she appreciated the opportunity to work with the kids at the Carroll Summer Fun Camp.

"I enjoyed it because I got a lot of hugs there," Meredith said.

When Meredith was asked to paint one of the bicycle tables for RAGBRAI, Summer said she wondered if the project was too big for her. Regardless, Summer said she quickly painted an American Goldfinch on the table.

"She always really surprises me, and I appreciate that about her art," Summer said.

Summer said her daughter is a completely self-taught artist, not having an instruction from her parents or school.

"Obviously, we're super proud of her and we love watching her develop her art skills, but also just work through her own challenges," Summer said.

With Meredith being on the spectrum, Summer said, her daughter will let her know when her social battery is low. In certain environments, Summer said they can possibly become overwhelming for her daughter.

However, seeing her daughter walk in the classroom and work with the kids, Summer said, the experience showed growth on Meredith's part.

"It's cool that she can step out of her own boundaries and out of her own lines to create something and to share it with other people," Summer said.

Besides making art, Meredith said, she enjoys books, whether reading them physically or listening to audiobooks, as well as gardening. During the school year, Meredith said she plans to participate in History Day, manage the volleyball team and potentially start an Art



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Meredith Parrott standing with the bicycle table she painted. On the table, Meredith painted the American Goldfinch, the state bird of Iowa.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Meredith Parrott with her artwork available at Books and Bakery, located at 513 N. Adams St.

Club. Meredith is a daughter of Ben and Summer Parrott. She also has two siblings, including her older brother Benton, a rising sopho-

more at Glidden-Ralston High School and her older sister Madeline, a Carroll High School graduate and rising freshman at Louisiana State University.

TEMPLETON

Ashley Obermeier, Lawrence "Wasp" & Doris Handlos, Donna & Joa Kemper

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—Donna, Joe & Ashley

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