

FAULK COUNTY RECORD

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John Cassens will star in the Aberdeen Community Theater's production of Little Shop of Horrors from Aug. 6-10. Above he's pictured with the Audrey II puppet.

Suddenly Seymour

John Cassens is at it again. Anybody who's heard him sing or do anything music related locally knows he has serious talent and stage presence. He and his brother Chris were also recently in the cast of Northern State University production of Les Miserables. He also has composed (yes that's right, composed) several orchestral pieces of his own, played by the FHS band as well as writing a wind quintet piece that was played by the college music professors who taught the Rushmore Music Camp last summer. Any way you measure it, this young man has a gift for music.

We can only assume that the folks at the Aberdeen Community Theater must have seen that talent firsthand at his audition, as they have cast him in the lead role of Seymour Krelborn in their 2014 production of Little Shop of Horrors.

"I never thought to do something this big this fast," he said. "This is my debut with the Aberdeen Community Theater and I've got the lead role. I was very honored to say the least, and I was also a little intimidated. There is certainly a lot of hard work, practice and perfecting that I need to do. But we've got a great cast who have all been extremely supportive. I'm the newbie, but everybody else has done several shows with ACT, so though I'm sort of learning on the job here, I know it's going to be a great show. Our version is actually kind of a small cast, just eight others besides me. And though we still work as hard, maybe harder than we did for Les Mis, it's a different atmosphere. I might be the 'lead', but everybody has a lead role, every-

body has their moment."

Cassens worked with both director Daniel Yurgaitis and the show's music director in the NSU production, and he said that was also a privilege and a good primer to get ready for this show.

"Little Shop of Horrors is probably the perfect show for me," said Cassens. "Typically you'll have three minutes of song followed by just a minute or two of dialogue," he said. "There is a lot of singing and although I do enjoy acting, singing is more my thing. Musical theater though, they often become one and the same."

Cassens said that to him it's no surprise that Little Shop of Horrors has become an icon in popular culture, as the composer Alan Menken went on to produce hit scores for Disney animated features like the Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin.

"It was popular enough with the movie version that everybody knows the songs," Cassens said. "What's really fun about it is that Little Shop crosses so many different genres. One scene you've got music that could have been in Snow White, then another where it could be from Fiddler on the Roof, and then you've got hard rock, all put together with 1950's era style Doo-Wop that runs throughout the show. What's not to love!"

Cassens said that he relates to the character of Seymour.

"There is a script description of Seymour trying to dance with the girls, it says something like 'Seymour attempts to dance with the girls and is a dismal failure

Cassens Little Shop of Horrors
 (Continued on Page 2)

Florida man turns tragedy into a triumph of life & love

Not all who wander are lost. Steve Fugate knows exactly where he's going and why he's going there. He walks because he loves life and he wants you to love it too. His journeys brought him to Faulkton on Monday morning, July 28.

"I lost my son to suicide," he said. "It was after that I began my first walk. I was just about finished with my first walk, when my daughter, who'd been diagnosed with MS also died. A mistake with her medication is what they told me, so I lost both my children. So I've been walking ever since. My message is to love life, and my creed is to mend the broken heart while it's still beating. Your life doesn't belong to just you, it also belongs to your loved ones and you don't have the right to take it. Even if you're 70 years old, if your momma is still alive then you are her baby, and you don't want to put her through that."

Fugate is from Vero Beach, Florida. He is 68 years old and has walked coast to coast seven times. This is his eighth walk and he plans to walk through the 48 contiguous states. He has a good estimate of his total mileage, which is currently around 36,500 miles.

"I've got 29 down, 19 more to go," he said. "I started this walk on March 23, 2013 and I figure it'll be about a year more to get me home."

Fugate has traveled in all weathers and conditions, from thunderstorms and tornadoes to ice storms and blizzards. He's been featured in newspapers all across the country, National

Steve Fugate's story (Continued on Page 2)



Steve Fugate



Desi Wieseler and Alyssa Meyer go over musical pieces for the upcoming ecumenical mission rally that will be held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church next week on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. The rally is sponsored by the Faulk County Ministerial Association to support Wieseler's upcoming missionary work this fall.

Hear a joyful sound for a good cause next week

Next Wednesday, Aug. 6, Desirae Wieseler will be part of an ecumenical service at Our Savior Lutheran Church. If our readers will recall a story that appeared in the 7-16-14 issue of the Record by our correspondent JoAnn Schaefer, they will know that this past summer Desi just finished a five week training session to become a missionary as part of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).

"I got involved in FOCUS over the course of my freshman year," she said. "It started when I met Beth, who was a missionary. She was a witness of pure and real joy. Honestly, I just saw that she was so happy, and I wanted the secret of that happiness myself, I desired to have that joy for myself. It was after the investment of friendship on both our parts that my faith and personal relationship with Jesus Christ that I understood what had truly made Beth so happy, and it was learning to become an instrument of God's love, like she had done."

Wieseler said that it was easy for her to get hooked on that feeling, wanting to do good for others in Missionary work.

"I knew I wanted to get more involved, to share some of the joy I'd

been given," said Wieseler. "After my summer spent working in the Michigan youth center, I knew I wanted to do more. I knew I wanted to share more of the love of God with others, and it's just spiraled outward from there."

Wieseler plans to go forth and do just that, serving as a FOCUS missionary at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse with a team of four FOCUS missionaries. To make it happen though, she needs your help. That's why the Faulk County Ministerial Association is hosting an ecumenical mission rally on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. It will feature special music by Alyssa Meyer and Chris Cassens. Afterward there will be an ice cream social.

"We are welcoming not just youth, but people of all ages to come and be witnesses to faith in action," said organizer Cindy Kopecky. "It's not just a fundraiser, it's a gathering for young and old to share the same good news, sharing God's witness of love to the world."

Now that Wieseler has graduated from college, she wanted to make her first vocation in the professional world one of grace and service to her fellow man. What's next for her after this mission work this coming year she has no idea, but whatever it is she wants to make faith and selfless service part of it.

"That's what I hope to see most in this rally next week," she said. "The universality of faith in something greater than ourselves. I've seen it in my mission and at college. Some people go day-to-day, living in the disappointment between sampling only transient pleasures. Why do that when there is something much better, much more fulfilling out there. Sharing faith with the whole body of Christ, which is every person you meet."

RECORD NOTES

Weather

| | H | L | P |
|-----------------|----|----|-----|
| Tues., July 22 | 83 | 56 | |
| Wed., July 23 | 83 | 58 | .12 |
| Thurs., July 24 | 80 | 61 | .02 |
| Fri., July 25 | 83 | 62 | .02 |
| Sat., July 26 | 87 | 57 | |
| Sun., July 27 | 74 | 48 | |
| Mon., July 28 | 75 | 48 | |

Tom Bartholomew, Observer
 The total amount of moisture in 2014 is 9.35. Total moisture in 2013 to date was 13.70.