

Two races held in June at speedway

By Kayla Cornett
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The Thomas County Speedway held two nights of races last month, with plenty of action on the dirt track for fans.

On June 3, Ryan Baalmann came away with the win in the econo class. Jory Friesen took second, Jeremy Blackwill third, Joe Austin fourth, Ron Baalmann fifth, Bill Turner sixth, Adrienne West seventh, Rocky Baalmann eighth, Bryan Guyer ninth and Mark Singer 10th. Alex Crissland, Krista Pummer, Joe Harper and Joey Foster did not finish the race.

In the hobby stock class, Tyrel Smith finished in first place. Mike Giesenhagen grabbed second, Daniel Irwin third, Brian Stich fourth, Drew Drennan fifth, John Luckert sixth, Jason McIntyre seventh, Joey Snethen eighth and Michael Johnson ninth. Richard Boon and Jason McClung did not finish the race.

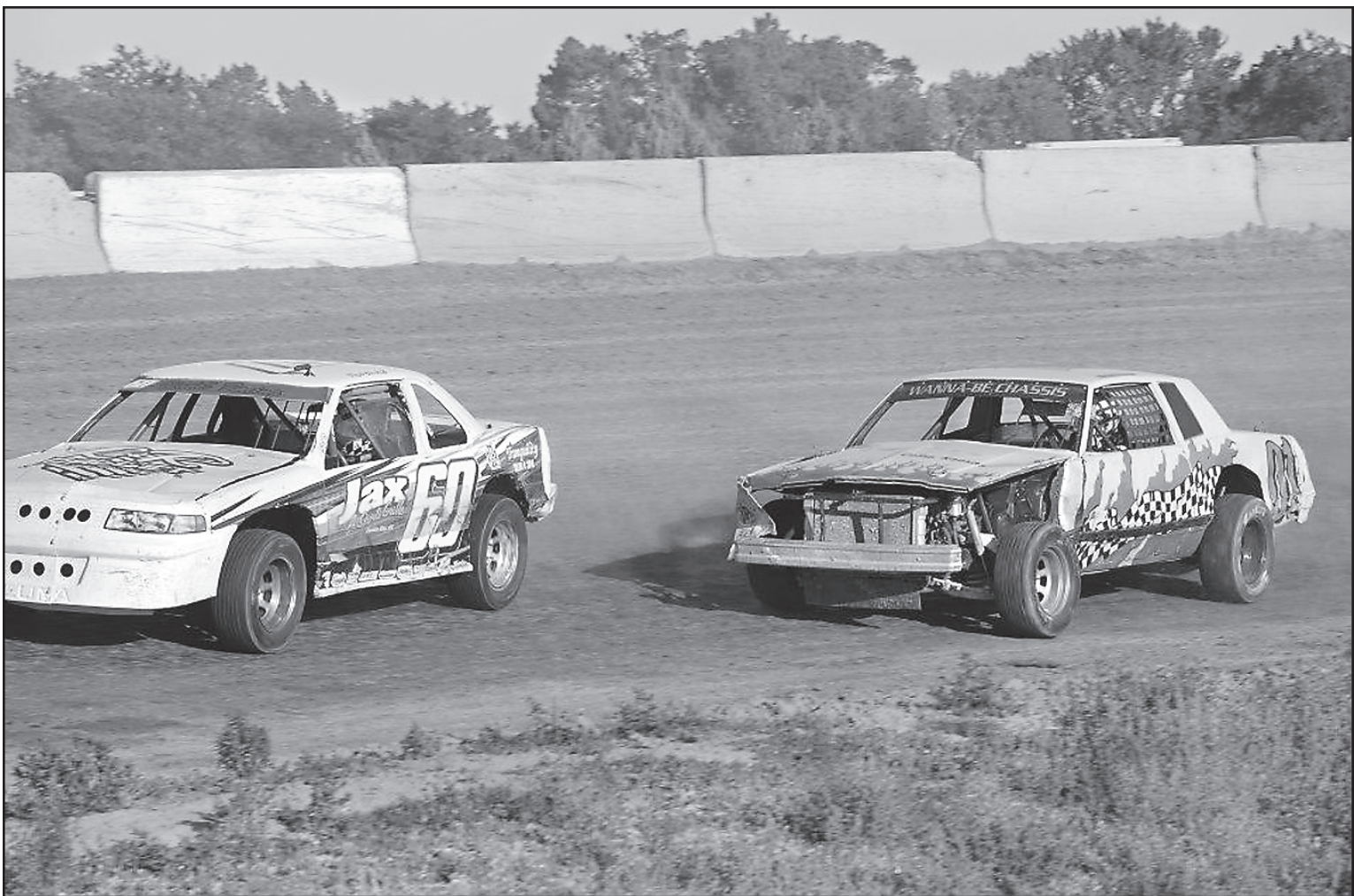
Jason Brees won the sport mod-

ified class and Michael Wadel followed in second. Jacob Adler took third, Dustin Daniels fourth, Jason Gray fifth, Ethan Zwegardt sixth and Trevor Gray seventh.

Winning the stock car class that day was Nick Tubbs. Mike Meyer came in second, Jeff Tubbs third, Bruce Plumisto fourth, B.J. Wagoner fifth, Jason Rogers sixth, Wheat Lippelmann seventh, Tyler Tipton eighth, Austin Janousek ninth, Rich Beesley 10th and Allen Snethen did not start the feature.

In the modified class, Darren DeLoach won the first-place trophy while Adam Morris finished second. Wheat Lippelmann took third, Nate Moore fourth, David Solberg fifth, Milo Lippelmann sixth, Matt Morris seventh, John Fose eighth, Jason Haug ninth and Allen Kurth 10th.

The next races at the speedway were on June 17 and Joe Harper won the econo class. Bryan Guyer grabbed second, Ryan Baalmann third, Alex West fourth, Jory Friesen fifth, Ron Baalmann sixth, Joe Austin seventh, Rocky Baalmann



THOMAS COUNTY SPEEDWAY

Rodney Wadel (No. 60) and Mike Meyer (No. 01) raced June 17 in the stock car class at the Thomas County Speedway. Meyer

edged out Wadel, taking fifth place while Wadel finished sixth.

eighth, Adrienne West ninth, Ray West 10th, Krista Pummer 11th and Billy Turner 12th.

The hobby stock class was won by Brian Stich and Tyrel Smith followed in second. Mike Giesenhagen came in third, Drew Drennan fourth, Jason McIntyre fifth, Richard Boon sixth, Jason Black-

hart seventh, Daniel Irwin eighth, Michael Johnson ninth and Jake Eicher 10th.

The sport modified class results are Dustin Daniels, first; Jacob Adler, second; Michael Wadel, third; Jason Brees, fourth; Clay Sellard, fifth; Jason Gray, sixth; and Ethan Zwegardt, seventh.

London's Olympic summer has a Shakespearean flavor

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — As the world comes to Britain for the Olympics, Britain is celebrating arguably its greatest gift to the world — the plays of William Shakespeare.

Anyone who doubts that accolade for the playwright dead almost 400 years might want to go to the new “Shakespeare: Staging the World” exhibition at the British Museum, and look at the final exhibit, a well-worn, one-volume collection of Shakespeare’s plays.

The book is the property of Sonny Venkatrathnam, a former South African anti-apartheid prisoner. He secretly kept it the notorious Robben Island prison but shared it with other inmates, who underlined and autographed the passages that meant the most to them.

The book lies open at lines from “Julius Caesar” — “Cowards die many times before their deaths/The valiant never taste of death but once” — signed “N.R.D. Mandela.”

“In a way, Nelson was the Caesar of the ANC,” said Venkatrathnam, who spent several years in the prison with African National Congress leader Mandela in the 1970s. “I think it resonated with his philosophy.”

Mandela — now the revered 94-year-old former president of post-apartheid South Africa — is one of more than 30 inmates whom Venkatrathnam asked to sign the volume. It became known as the “Robben Island Bible,” because Venkatrathnam told prison warders — who had banned nonreligious books — that it was “the Bible by William Shakespeare.” He plastered its cover with cards celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali in a successful bid to disguise the contents from guards.

“They would come and say, ‘What’s that?’ I’d say ‘It’s my Bible,’” said Venkatrathnam, a dapper 76-year-old who traveled to London for the opening of the exhibition. “For all the years on the island they wouldn’t touch it.”

British Museum director Neil MacGregor

said the book is “a wonderful symbol of what Shakespeare means to all of us.”

The exhibition, which opens Thursday, is part of an outpouring of Shakespearean activity in Britain that includes the opening ceremony of the July 27-Aug. 12 Olympic Games. Director Danny Boyle’s ceremony, entitled “Isles of Wonder,” is inspired by the strange and enchanted island of “The Tempest.”

Other helpings of the Bard include a cycle of history plays, currently being shown on Saturday night prime-time BBC television, and the Royal Shakespeare Company’s epic World Shakespeare Festival. Since April, the RSC, based in Shakespeare’s home town of Stratford-upon-Avon, has been bringing companies from around the world to stage his plays in Britain.

The productions, in more than 40 languages, have ranged from an Iraqi “Romeo and Juliet” to a Russian “Midsummer Night’s Dream” and a Brazilian circus “Richard III.”

American director Peter Sellars, whose contribution to the festival is “Desdemona” — a reimagining of “Othello” by U.S. writer Toni Morrison and Malian singer Rokia Traore — said Shakespeare is truly a writer for the whole world.

“He was a guy who — and not for reasons of branding — called his theater ‘The Globe,’” Sellars said.

The British Museum show, which runs through Nov. 25, combines artifacts from Shakespeare’s time — including the only surviving manuscript in the playwright’s handwriting — with recorded readings by actors to evoke an era that seems both familiar and alien.

In Shakespeare’s day, London was just beginning to attract people from around the world, emerging as the center of a nascent empire.

“As the world comes to London in 2012, this Olympic summer, we are going to look at how the world came to London and how London

saw the world 400 years ago,” said Jonathan Bate, co-curator of the exhibition.

The exhibition roams through Shakespeare’s influences, from the rural English landscapes of his youth to the country’s dynastic power struggles, the discoveries emerging from the New World, the arrival of visitors from abroad and the creation of Britain as a country with the union of the crowns of England and Scotland under James I.

Some items suggest a cold, violent world a long way from our own. There’s King Henry V’s jousting helmet, a bear skull excavated from the site of an Elizabethan theater — where bear-baiting went on alongside drama — and an iron “witch’s collar” and metal gag used to punish women accused of sorcery.

But the parallels with our own era of migration, globalization and political uncertainty are ever-present.

It is hard to nail down the secret of Shakespeare’s genius. It rests on some combination of the exuberance of his language and the resonance of the human predicaments he depicts, from lovers battling family disapproval to kings struggling to live up to the burdens of power.

Shakespeare set plays in Venice and Verona, Denmark and Egypt — places he had read about but never visited. His plays in turn helped create the world view of his audience, and have been influencing audiences around the world ever since.

“He was genuinely a global figure — perhaps the greatest global export this country has ever produced,” Bate said.

His ability to speak to audiences around the world is undimmed.

“The great thing about Shakespeare is that he speaks to everyone,” Venkatrathnam said. “Regardless of your political or ideological position, you can find something that speaks directly to you. To me, he is the universal philosopher.”

Meadow Lake holds golf nights

For ladies’ night at Meadow Lake Golf Course last Tuesday, 16 women played a “least putts” golf game.

The results: for the first flight, Anita Beckman, first; Cheryll Edmundson and Audrey Hines, tie for second; and Joy Rothfuss, third. For the second flight, Kacie Goetz, first; Buzzy Koerperich, second; Pam Augustine, third; and Shari Oren, fourth.

The next ladies’ night was Tuesday with one-lady scramble as the game. Tee off was at 6 p.m. and cost \$2 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

Last Wednesday, the men played a four-man scramble for men’s night. The results: Williams, Williams, Schwanke and Schwanke, first; Kriss, Kriss, Kriss and Kersenbrock, second; and Molstad, Molstad, Sims and Kriss, third.

The next men’s night was to be Wednesday with three-man scramble as the game. Tee off was at 6 p.m. and cost was \$5

per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

On Friday, couples played a two-couple scramble best-ball golf game.

The next couple’s night will be Friday and the game is one-couple scramble. Tee-off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee per couple for nonmembers.

The 44th Annual Buffalo Chip golf tournament will be held from next Thursday to Saturday, July 28, at Meadow Lake. Thursday, a “horse race” will begin at 4 p.m. and the Buffalo Chip will tee off at 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28.

The tournament will be two-man scramble. Cost is \$300 per team with the horse race or \$280 without. That includes lunch Friday and Saturday and dinner for two Saturday night.

For information or to register, for the tournament or any activities, call Kevan Taylor at the clubhouse, 460-6443.

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