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 Order pick-up call
 Shipping/Receiving
 507-385-2767
 Quality questions: Collin Schreyer 507-385-2776
 Status on orders:
 Terry Harroun 507-385-2768
 Litchfield- 320-326-1102



320 Mallard Lane
 Mankato, MN 56001

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Associated Addition

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Rolling with the Punches

“Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors”

The spring/summer of 2020 will go down in the history books as one that we will all remember for years to come. The pandemic has affected all businesses in the country in different ways and everyone has had to pivot in some capacity to find their way. At AFI, we are focusing on what we can control to keep our doors open and keep producing for our customers.

We have had to adjust the business to find our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. It is usually never easy to make these adjustments and we have found that it normally takes even longer to make the adjustments an efficient process. The important part is that we explore the new options, new projects, and think outside the box to keep things moving forward. We are trying to see the bright side of this situation and use it to make changes that will strengthen our business for many years beyond this summer.

AFI is looking at what we can control in this unpredictable circumstance and we are working to make the best improvements possible. New policies have been put in place to help protect our business and the business of our customers. We have addressed many parts of the business including social distancing, PTO policies, cleaning schedules, and facility visitors. One of AFI's core values is flexibility; we are striving to show off that value in many ways through this pandemic whether it be with customer communication, production scheduling, or labor sharing between departments. We are all connected throughout these industries and one closure can have a ripple effect throughout the supply chains; we are doing our best to keep our doors open.

We can't predict the future and the first half of 2020 didn't go as planned, but then again not much usually goes as planned anyways. Thank you for all of your support and partnership through the first half of 2020 and we look forward to growth on the horizon.

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 507-385-2764

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Quality:
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Not Your Everyday Run

Many people like to go out for a run to burn off some energy and get some exercise. AFI's quality manager, Collin Schreyer, took it much further than an evening stroll. Collin officially completed the Badger 100 which is a grueling 100 mile run that took place in Kingman, Kansas.



(Collin Schreyer (2nd from left) with wife Noelle & team)

How do you even train for a one-hundred mile race? Collin stuck to strict schedule of running 10 miles per day on the weekdays when time was limited. On the weekends, he would run a marathon to build up his stamina. His philosophy was that if he tried to do more than that each day that his performance would start to decline because of his overall fatigue. He trained for about six months on this schedule leading up to this amazing run.

Luckily, the day was quiet and cool to start the race. Collin says some keys to this race were hydration and eating enough calories during the race to be able to finish. His diet for the day consisted of peanut butter tortilla roll-ups and he drank nine gallons of water. He had a group of three teammates including his wife, Noelle, that drove along next to him and didn't let him quit. In fact, they wouldn't even let him take a break!

He completed his 100 mile race in 30 hours! There were thirty runners at the beginning of the race and fifteen made it to the finish line. It took him two days of recovery to be able to walk normal again and he completed the race with a torn meniscus. Collin was glad to have completed his goal, but will be moving from running into a new hobby!

Officially Retired!

Alan Baer has officially retired from AFI and has moved on to the next stages in life. He has worked at AFI for the past 28 years as the quality manager and process engineer. Alan has been a dedicated manager that played a large role in the company that AFI has become over the years. Alan planned to retire on June 4th, but decided to retire early when the COVID-19 pandemic started to heat up. Since retiring, Alan has been busy working on projects around the house and spending time with family.

Alan enriched many lives around AFI throughout the years and he will be greatly missed! Congratulation Alan!



(Alan & his wife Becky)

AFI in the Community

Over the years, AFI has had the opportunity to work with local leaders on projects for the community. Two recent projects that we have powder coated are the "Unity Totem" and the "Sound of Old Town" bench created by artist Julie Dempster. It is definitely a change of pace to go from industrial finishing to powder coating one-of-a-kind pieces, but it is fun to see the results of these incredible projects!

The Unity Totem is located in multiple locations across the city of Mankato including Sibley Park. As described by Julie "It acknowledges the first Greater Mankato inhabitants with "Welcome" in Dakota at the top. Throughout the piece, the word "Welcome" is inscribed in the majority of the 40+ languages spoken in Mankato. The Unity Totem is meant to educate and remind park visitors that the neighborhood is home to diverse cultures. It also gives neighborhood residents validation that their culture is integral to Mankato's past, present and future."



The "Sound of Old Town" bench is located in downtown Mankato. As described by Julie: "The theme of the bench highlights the music and musicians that Old Town businesses have supported throughout the years. From the Wine Cafe to the Oleander to spots in between local musicians have been at the heart of bringing people to Old Town. Integrating the theme into the form of a bench does triple duty: it honors the history & creativity of the area, it gives pedestrians a spot to rest and it encourages them to take a moment to look around for more of "the Sound of Old Town!"



Congratulations to Milestones!

- ◆ Tyler Niss, Maintenance Lead - Graduated from South Central College in May with a Mechatronics degree
- ◆ Mick Rykhus, Facilities Manger - Welcomed daughter Faline Wylie Rykhus on April 1st, also granddaughter of Ted Schreyer, President
- ◆ Collin Schreyer, Quality Manager - Married on April 10th to wife Noelle