

Freedom Pursuit

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Storm results in days without power

By Angie Griepentrog
Pursuit Editor

Freedom storm warning sirens sounded around 5:45 p.m. June 15. According to area residents, the high winds disappeared as fast as they came.

"All the damage was done within a minute," said Mark Evers.

He was working on cleanup the next day at his family farm just north of Freedom on Hwy 55. Evers said his farm seemed to be right on the edge of the storm with much more significant damages being reported immediately north. A power pole in front of his house was snapped in two places. Heading toward Seymour, poles were resting across the highway as far as the eye could see.

In the world of farming, the work happens rain or shine so he continued what he was doing in the barn as the storm was approaching and even after the lights first went out. Then the winds came, blowing several calf hutches across the property. That resulted in four calves running around the yard.

"In the middle of the storm, me and Mau (hired help) were chasing the calves around. They're all

good. A couple of them came running back to me," Evers said. "We were soaked by the time we got done."

Out by Skunk Hill bar, men pried off what remained of the wind struck roof. Across Hwy C and heading farther out of town down Hwy S were multiple power lines snapped, making the road impassable.

At the home of Deb and Tom Murphy, rev-popping chainsaw exhaust perfumed the air. Their house is across the street from Skunk Hill bar. Two big pine trees and their home's roof were part of the aftermath casualties. Like many others in the Freedom area, Murphy's just had their roof damaged from this spring's hail storm. It was also newly replaced.

"Our roof is two days old," Deb Murphy said. "We had a tree land on the front."

She and her husband were watching the news and paying attention to the storm, which was predicted to arrive around 6:18 p.m. That it did. First the power went out, and Tom checked the sky.

*Cont. on P.3
See Storm Damages*



Workers from Brockman's Roofing and Siding were on the job June 16 right after the June 15 storm replacing the damaged roof at Skunk Hill Bar on Hwy S.

Photo by A. Griepentrog

STATE CHAMPIONS



Freedom High School's varsity softball girls are the school's first ever state champions. Shown celebrating right after their win, left to right, are Lizzy Wesoloski, Annabel Bartoszek and Naleyah Bork.

Photo by B. Fischer

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The Freedom High School varsity softball girls became the 2022 WIAA D2 State Champion team after defeating the top-seeded Jefferson girls. This is the first state showing for the Irish softball program since 1987. It is also the school's first ever state softball championship.

In the eight-inning state championship game held June 11, the winning pitcher was Naleyah Bork.

A game highlight was when Bork hit a single in the top of the eighth inning, eventually resulting in a run. This put the Irish in the lead. To finalize the game, Bork pitched a strikeout, a grounder out to second and then a foul hit where Rachel Koss caught the game-ending out.

Getting hits for the Irish were Marlee Smith (2), Kiersten Kriewaldt, Rylie Murphy, Naleyah Bork and Sadie Jarmolowicz (2). Recording RBIs were Kriewaldt, Kaia McVay and Jarmolowicz (2).

The game was held at Goodman Diamond in Madison. The final score was 5-4.

Bork said she was probably the most nervous she has ever been in

a game in the state final. She said the seventh inning was rocky, but determination to win pulled the team through it.

"It truly was the pure fact that we wanted to win, and I think that got us through some of the most pressure-filled moments of that

"It was probably the best feeling I have ever experienced, and I wish I could relive it over and over."

**-Naleyah Bork,
FHS Varsity Girls
Softball Pitcher**

game," Bork said.

She believes high adrenaline might be why she could not immediately remember a lot of game details. She does remember the feeling, though.

"I remember the final out when Rachel Koss caught that ball; it was probably the best feeling I have ever experienced, and I wish I could relive it over and over. Knowing that we accomplished

our biggest goal and made history was truly the coolest thing ever."

Rylie Murphy said winning the state championship was something she could hardly even imagine.

"One particular moment that stood in the game for me was the last defensive huddle we had. Everyone was so dialed in and excited because we knew we were going to win a state title. Another moment that stood out to me was looking into the crowd before our game and seeing that our whole community was back behind us cheering us," Murphy said.

That final moment when they were able to officially call themselves state champions keeps rolling through her mind.

"One moment that replays in my head is when we got the last out and all just started rushing toward each other because we all have dreamed and worked hard for this moment since we were eight years old, and to finally accomplish it was perfect," she said.

Prior to this state final, the Irish won 1-0 over Winneconne in the sectional final. In the state semifinal the girls defeated New London, 11-10.